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Q-Ko-Chan

The Earth Invader Girl

GENDA HAJIME

Q-Ko-Chan

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GENDA HAJIME

デルレイ

Ballantine Books

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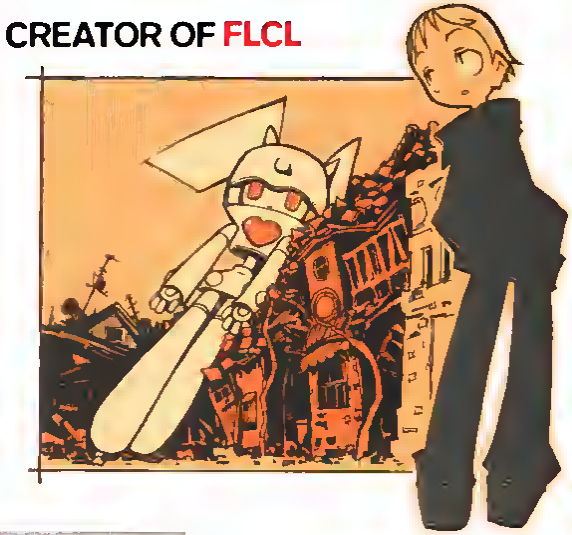
GREETINGS, EARTHLING

In the near-future on planet Earth, a world gone mad where never-ending war is a fact of life, Kirio is the coolest kid at school. Up in the sky, a giant robot is fighting a fleet of gunships, but the brilliant and distant Kirio is far from fazed—until the battling 'bot makes an unexpected landing in Kirio's front yard and rings the bell. But the worst threat for Kirio could be what stands on the other side of the door: the alien robot who has changed into an adorable girl!

FROM THE CREATOR OF FLCL

Includes special extras after the story!



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DEL REY KODANSHA

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Ueda Hajime

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
William Flanagan

LETTERED BY
Alan Smithee

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Q-Ko-Chan

The Earth Invader Girl

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Q-Ko-chan volume 1 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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Cover design—Drew Pennington-McNeil

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English term "kid" or "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "-sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), or as a title at the end of one's name, or in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics, and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific, and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

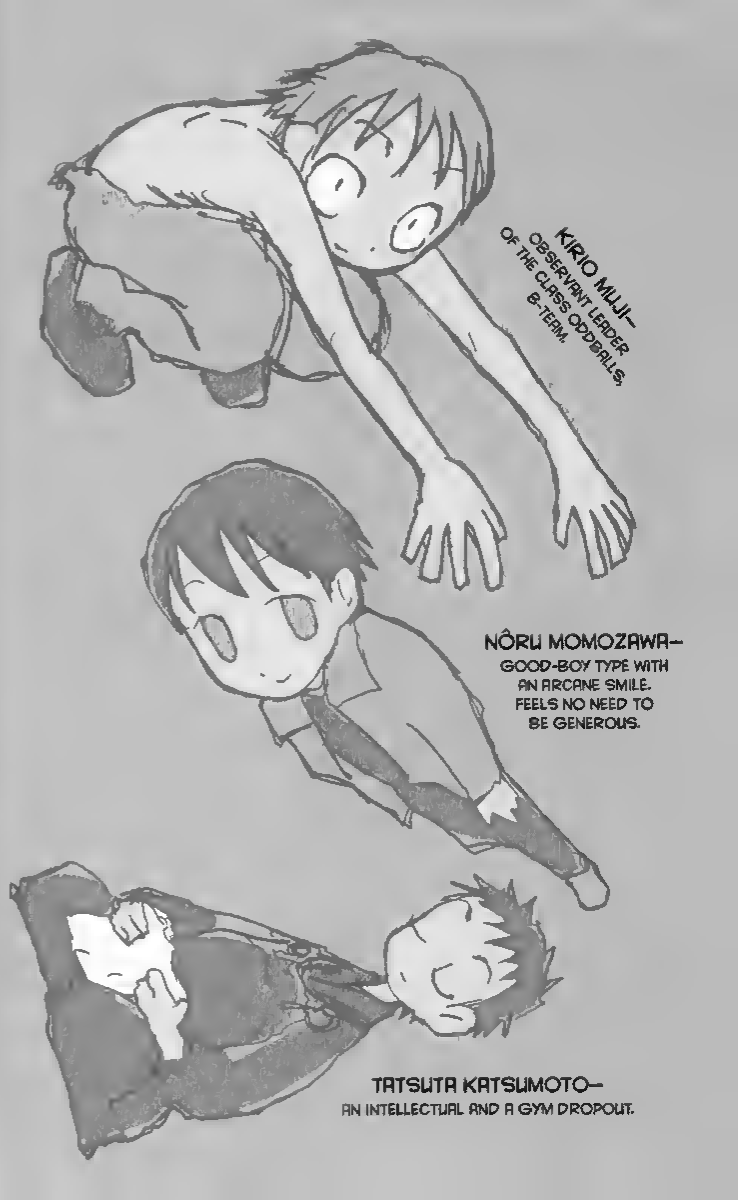
-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and it is used to confer great respect.

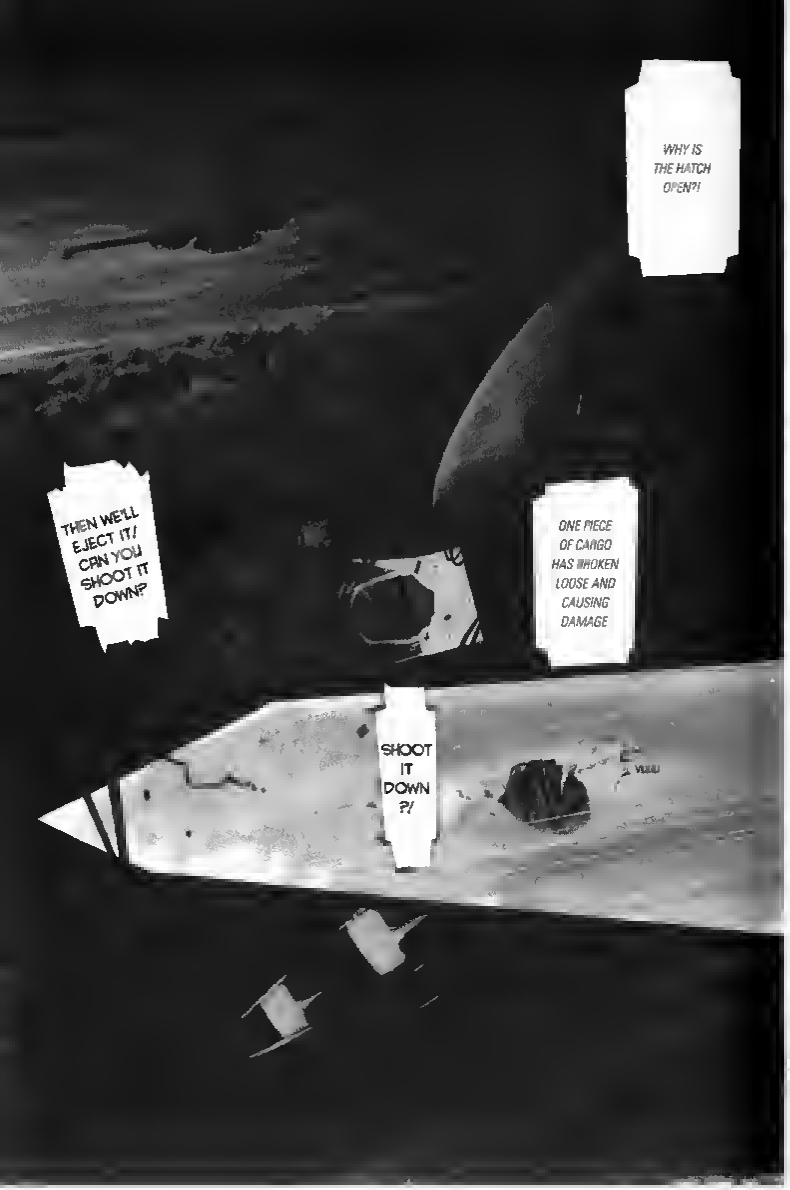
-dono: This comes from the word "tono" which means "lord." It is even a higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men amongst friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

Q

MEI KUROZAWA—
DOESN'T HAVE A DARK SIDE. NEVER SEEN HER FATHER.
SHIINO INO—
AFRAID OF NEW THINGS. KNOWS THAT SHE'S CUTE.
KATSUKI USUMI—
CAN'T SEEM TO FIT IN. CAN'T GET USED TO HIS SITUATION.


KIRIO MUJI—
OBSERVANT LEADER OF THE CLASS'S ODDBALLS, B-TEAM.
NÔRU MOMOZAWA—
GOOD-BOY TYPE WITH AN ARCANE SMILE. FEELS NO NEED TO BE GENEROUS.
TATSUYA KATSUMOTO—
AN INTELLECTUAL AND A GYM DROPOUT.


WHY IS THE HATCH OPEN?!
THEN WE'LL EJECT IT! CAN YOU SHOOT IT DOWN?
ONE PIECE OF CARGO HAS BROKEN LOOSE AND CAUSING DAMAGE
SHOOT IT DOWN?!
VUUU

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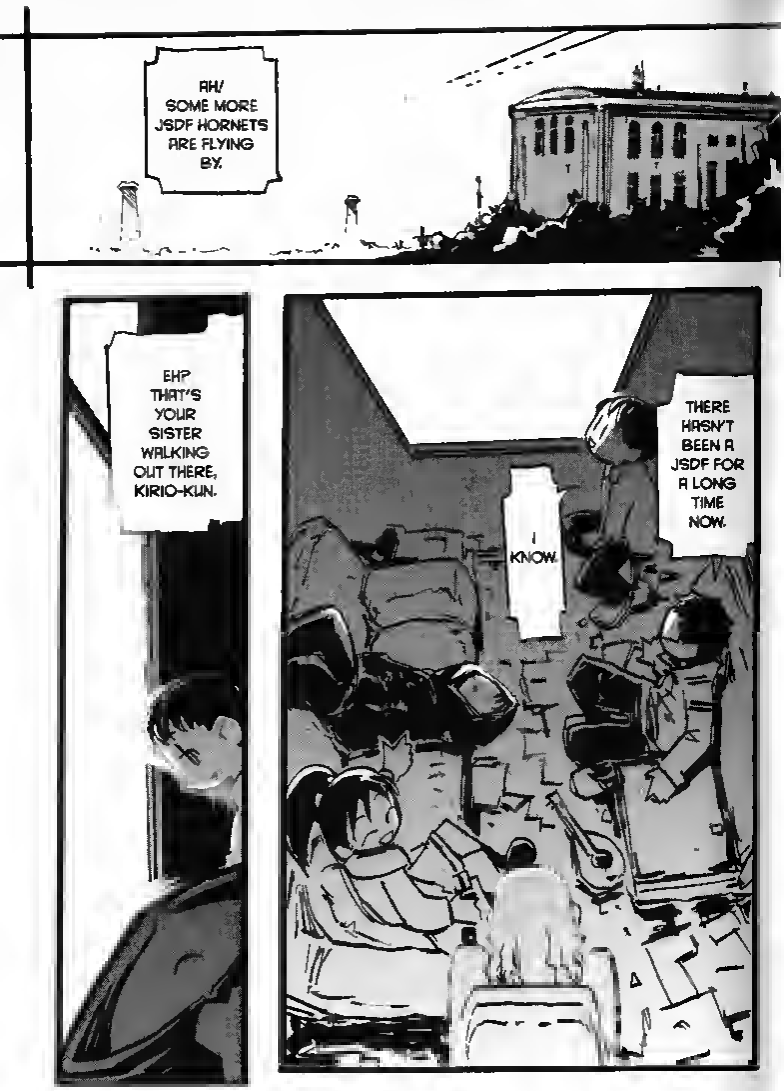
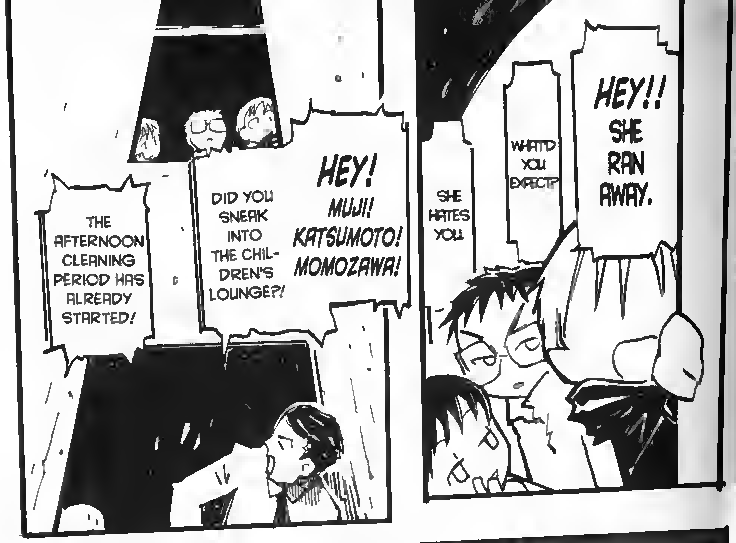
#1


AH/
SOME MORE
JSDF HORNETS
ARE FLYING
BY.
EH?
THAT'S
YOUR
SISTER
WALKING
OUT THERE,
KIRIO-KUN.
I
KNOW.
THERE
HASN'T
BEEN A
JSDF FOR
A LONG
TIME
NOW.

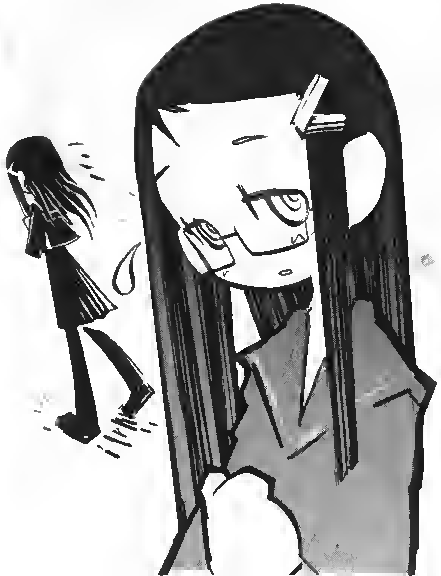
Q

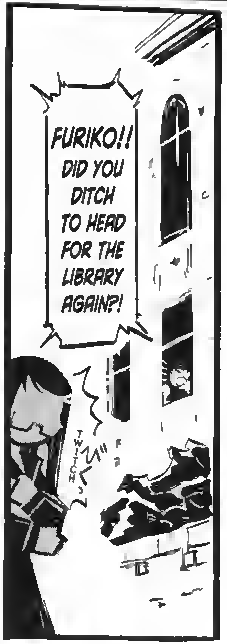

THE AFTERNOON CLEANING PERIOD HAS ALREADY STARTED!
DID YOU SNEAK INTO THE CHILDREN'S LOUNGE?!
HEY! MUJI! KATSUMOTO! MOMOZAWA!
SHE HATES YOU.
WHAT'D YOU EXPECT?
HEY!! SHE RAN AWAY.

IS SHE OUT OF THE SHELTER EARLY AGAIN?
WHAT'S THAT?

THAT'S WHAT SENSEI SAID HE TO SAY...
HE YOU GUYS DIDN'T HELP OUT WITH THE CLEANING, YOU'RE BREAKING SCHOOL RULES AND YOU'LL GET DEMERITS.
SLURP
SLURP

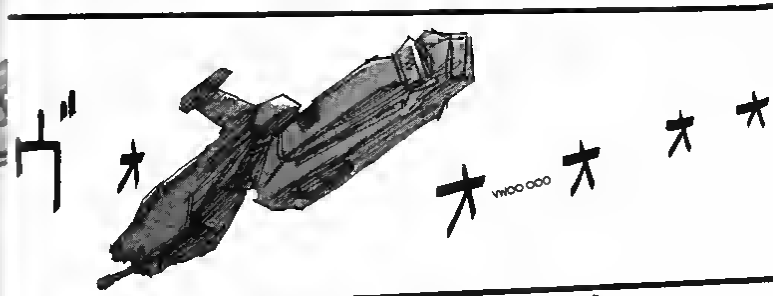
IT'S TRUE SIR!
WE'RE CLEANING UP THE CHILDREN'S LOUNGE RIGHT NOW!
SURE!
SHIINO-CHAN, LET'S DITCH THESE STUPID BOYS.

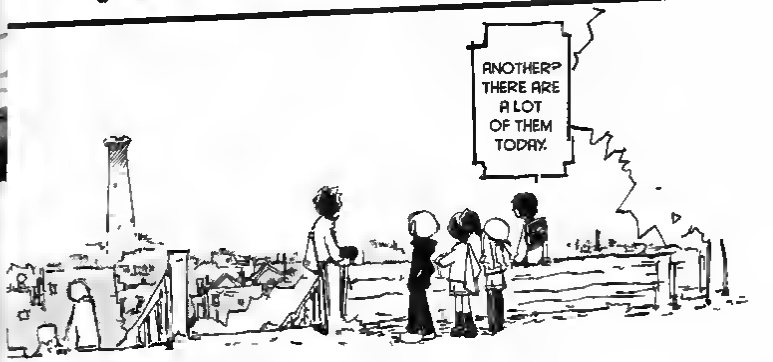


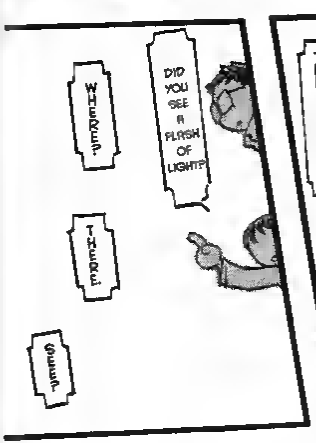

FURIKO!! DID YOU DITCH TO HEAD FOR THE LIBRARY AGAIN?!

THEY'RE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE SHOPPING DISTRICT.
WHAT IS IT?
THEY'RE CHASING THAT THING.

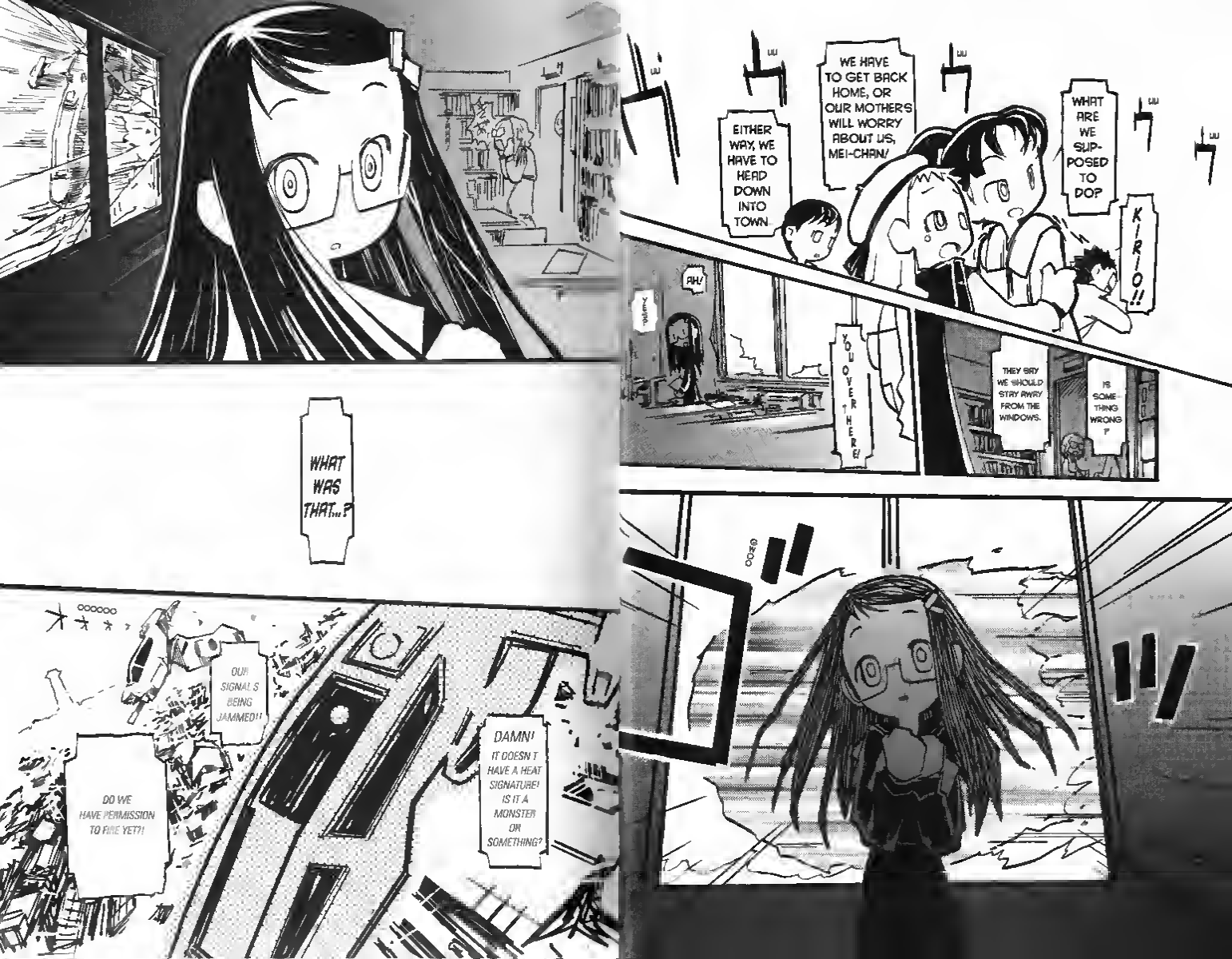
WHAT IS THAT THING?
IT'S THE OLD AIR RAID SI-REN!
WE HEARD THESE WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
KIRIO!!
EH?!
I'M GO-ING TO SEE!


VWOOOOO


ANOTHER? THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM TODAY.

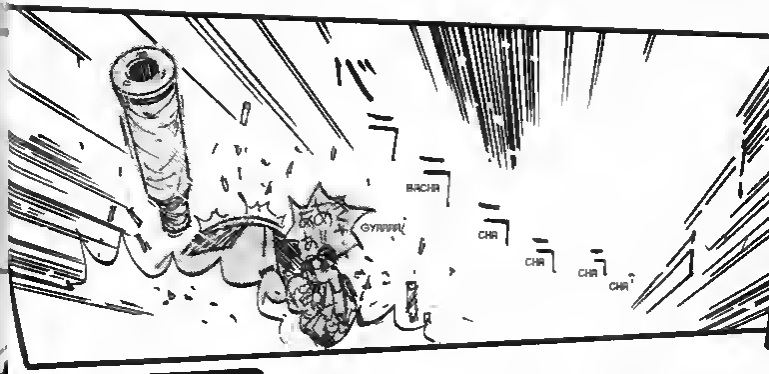

WHOOSH.
DID YOU SEE A FLASH OF LIGHT?
THUMP.
GRUMP.

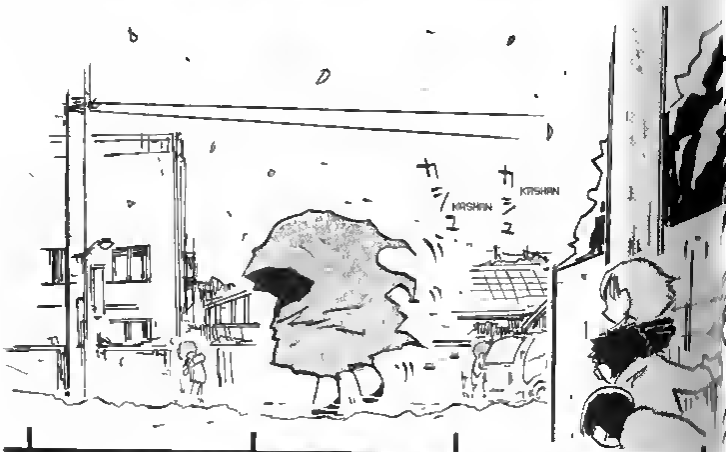
THE LIBRARY...
DOES EVERYBODY WANT TO COME TO MY PLACE?
WHAT'LL YOU ALL DO NOW?
EH?!


WHAT WAS THAT...?
DO WE HAVE PERMISSION TO FIRE YET?!
OUR SIGNAL'S BEING JAMMED!!
DAMN! IT DOESN'T HAVE A HEAT SIGNATURE! IS IT A MONSTER OR SOMETHING?
EITHER WAY, WE HAVE TO HEAD DOWN INTO TOWN
WE HAVE TO GET BACK HOME, OR OUR MOTHERS WILL WORRY ABOUT US, MEI-CHAN!
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?
KIRIO!!
AH!
YOU OVER THERE!
THEY SAY WE SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS.
IS SOMETHING WRONG?

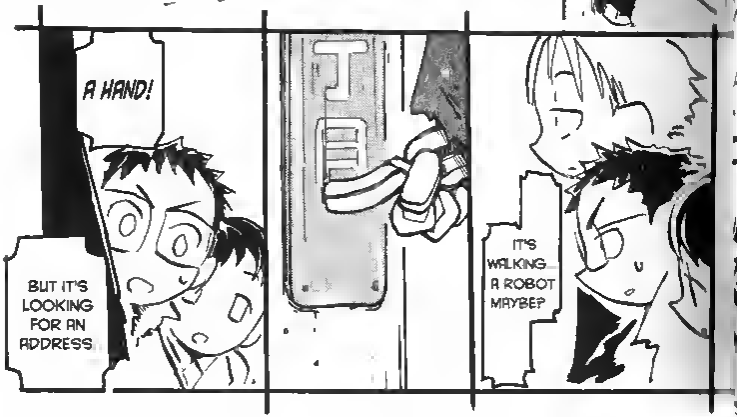
I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE!!
MAMA!!
SHIINO-CHAN, GET IN THE CAR! HURRY!
YOUR FRIENDS TOO!
THIS TOWN HAS A LOT OF MILITARY FAMILIES! WELL?
DO IT! THE NEXT TIME IT APPEARS TAKE IT OUT!
KIRIO!
GET IN!
I'M FINE.
MY HOUSE IS REAL CLOSE...
WHAT THE HECK
WHY ISN'T HE SCARED?
DAMMIT!
WAIT UP!!
SU
PAK
PAK
PAK
PAK
PAK

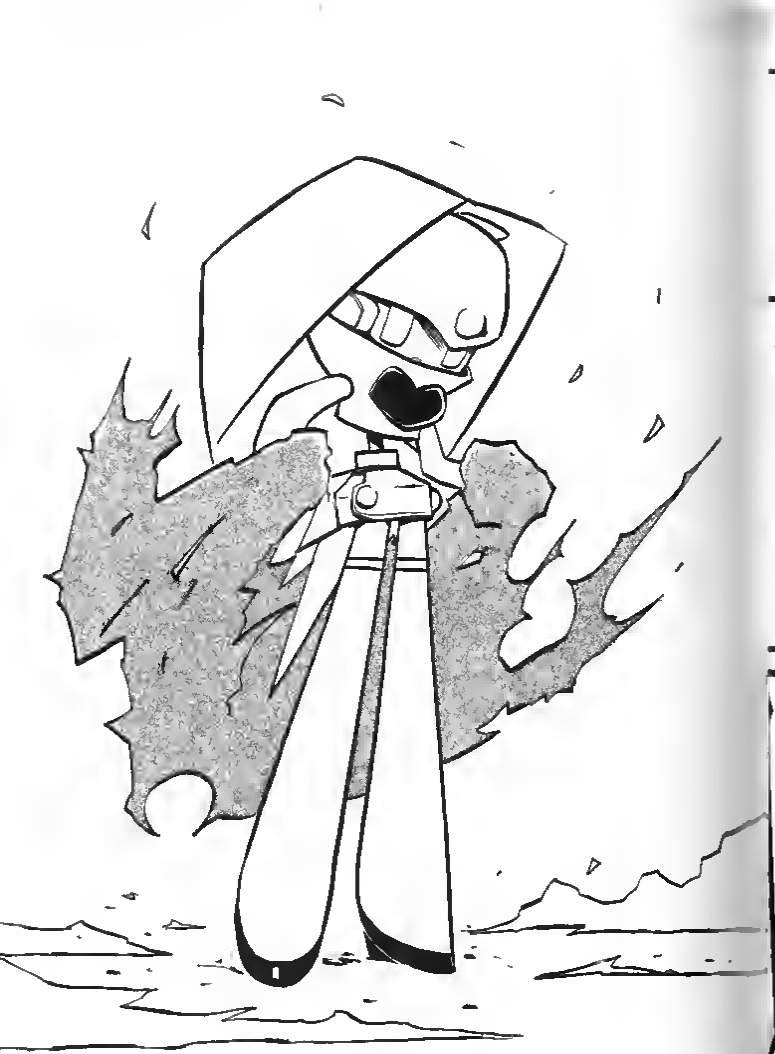
OW!!


BACHA
GYAAAA
CHA
CHA
CHA
CHA


KRSHIN
KRSHIN

THOSE IDIOTS!!!
GRAB


A HAND!
BUT IT'S LOOKING FOR AN ADDRESS
IT'S WALKING... A ROBOT MAYBE?



ピンポン
PING DONG
IS THAT SOME-BODY YOU KNOW?
IT'S LOOKING FOR MY HOUSE?
HEY., THAT'S YOUR..
A DELIV-ERY, MAYBE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH IT?!!
THAT'S MY HOUSE!!

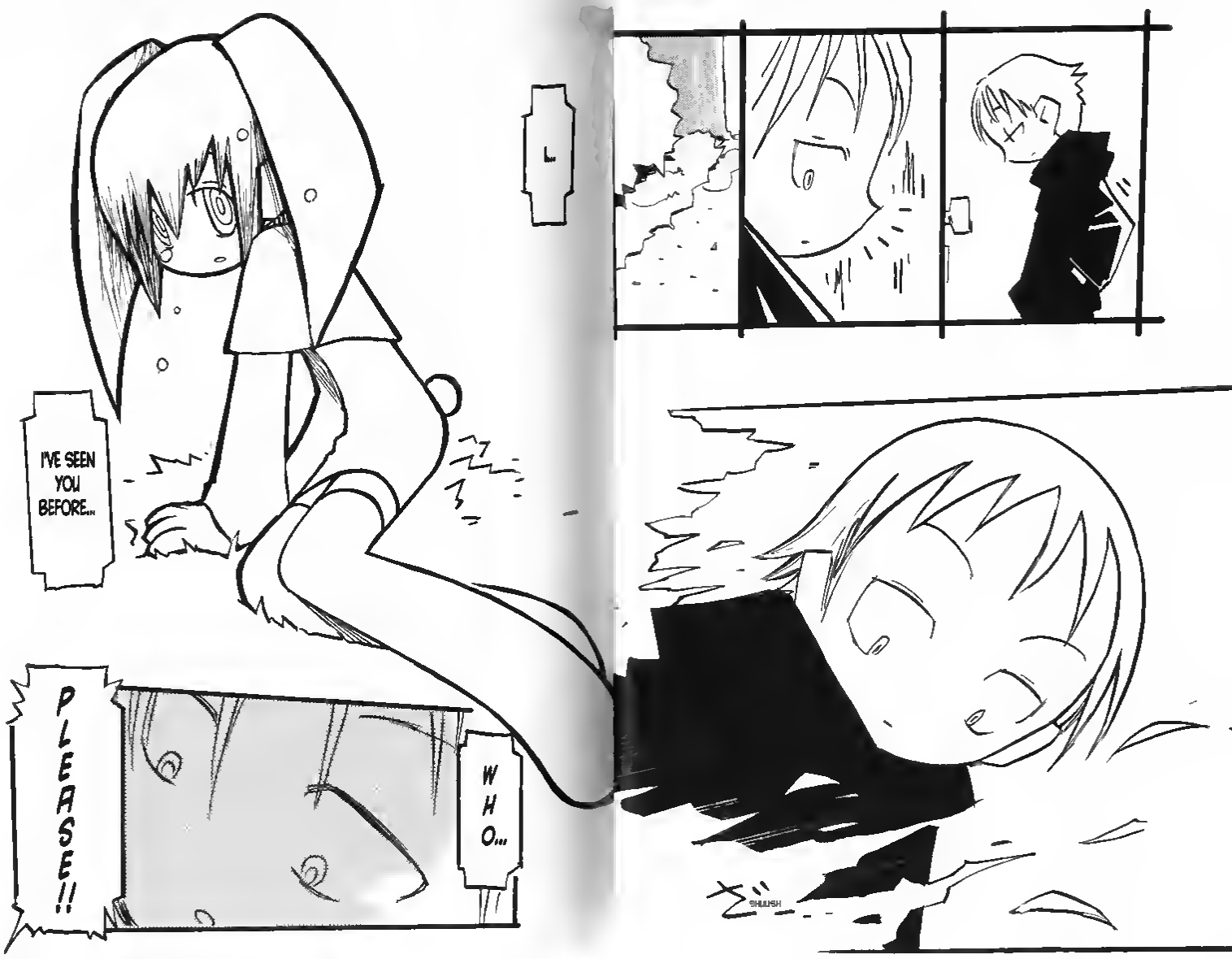
KASHAN
WHAT'D YOU EXPECT?
IT'S LOOKING THIS WAY.
DON'T YOU THINK AT ALL?!!
WHAT'S WITH YOU!!!
IT'S COMING TOWARD US! MAYBE WE SHOULD RUN!
WOOOO OO
WHAH!!

AFTER IT!
THE 20MM DIDN'T PHASE IT!
I'D LOVE TO BUT
UNGH!
ALL AIRBORNE UNITS MUST WITHDRAW AT ONCE!
THE ORDER TO FIRE WAS A MISTAKE!
AH TESTING! TESTING!

GEEZ! ALL RIGHT. FIRST, CORDON OFF THE AREA.
MOTHER!
KIRIO!
!

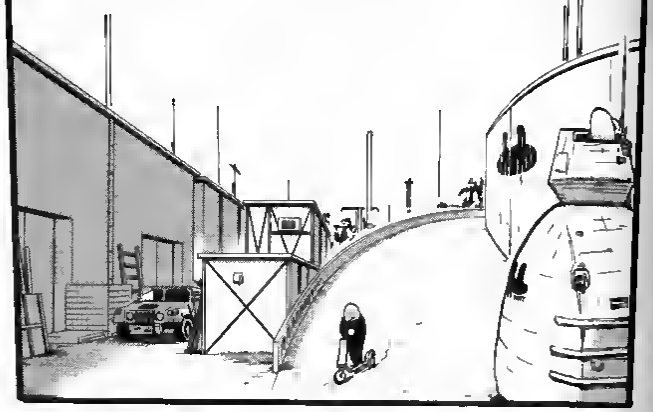
SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT BLACK HARE!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
THIS ISLAND IS UNDER OUR JURISDICTION! WITHDRAW YOUR FORCES!
GRR
WE'RE THE LOCAL AIR FORCE! IF ANYBODY HAS JURISDICTION IT'S US!
DO YOU THINK SOME PETTY POLITICIAN'S BODYGUARD GROUP HAS INFLUENCE OVER MAINLAND FORCES?!
BLACK HARE?!
THE WITHDRAWAL ORDER SHOULD BE COMING... ...THERE IT IS
DEFYING MY ORDERS?
CAN'T YOU SEND THEM PACKING?

WHERE'S YOUR SISTER?
I DON'T KNOW.
PROBABLY IN THE LIBRARY.
IF ONLY WE COULD GET PERMISSION TO HAVE MOBILE PHONES AGAIN, IT'D BE SO EASY TO STAY IN CONTACT
KIRIO, BE SURE TO GO TO FURIKO AND WALK HER HOME.
OKAY?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT DRESSED THAT WAY?
NOTHING TO SEE HERE.


L
I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE...
PLEASE!!
WHO...
SHUUSH

#2

UH..
I..UM..
YE%..
..UM..
I WANT YOU TO BOARD ME!!
WAIT A MOMENT.
I'LL TAKE MY CLOTHES OFF AND.
I-I'LL EXPLAIN MORE FULLY..
BOARD YOU...?
PLEASE BOARD ME!
...PILOT...?



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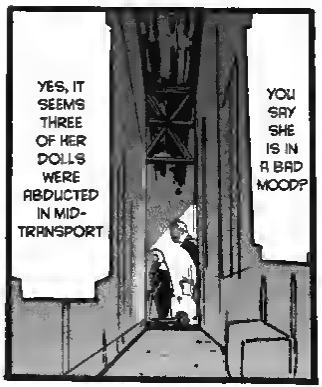
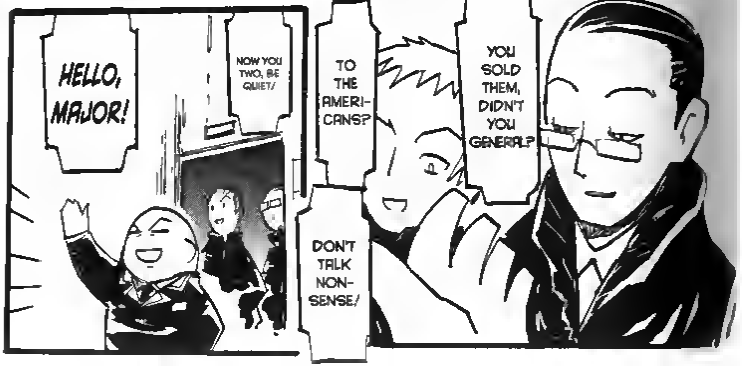
I CAN'T.. SEEM TO.. WORK THE BUTTONS.
...HUH...?


YES, IT SEEMS THREE OF HER DOLLS WERE ABDUCTED IN MID-TRANSPORT
YOU SAY SHE IS IN A BAD MOOD?

HUH? GENERAL! YOU'RE LOOKING SPIFFY TODAY.
OH! AKAZA, OZU, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. THIS IS THE RIGHT UNIFORM FOR INSIDE THE BASE.

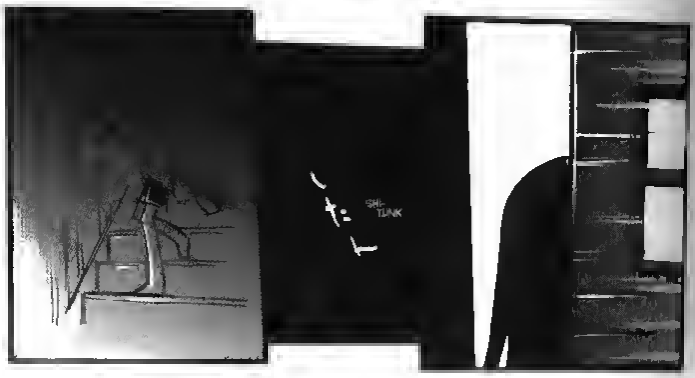

HELLO, MAJOR!
NOW YOU TWO, BE QUIET!
TO THE AMERICANS?
YOU SOLD THEM, DIDN'T YOU GENERAL?
DON'T TALK NONSENSE!

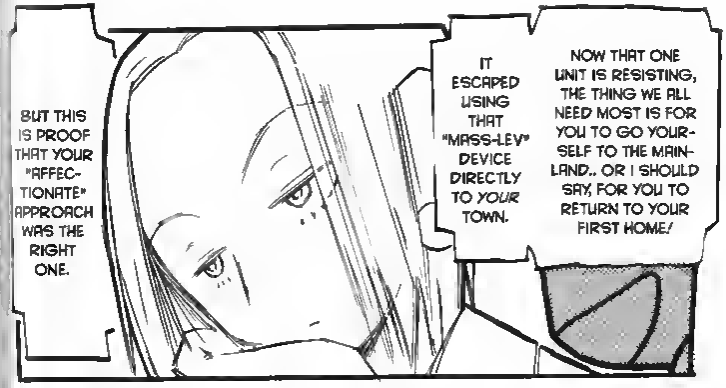
I CAN'T. . MOVE ANYMORE...
...I'M SO HUNGRY.

UNDERLINGS?!
I'VE BROUGHT A COUPLE OF RELIABLE UNDERLINGS FOR YOU.
WHO THE...
AND HERE I BROUGHT A COUPLE OF ELITE TROOPS FROM THE FAST TRACK.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, THIS CASE HAS BROUGHT US A LOT OF DEBTS WE'VE RUN THROUGH OUR ESTIMATES, AND MAINTAINING THE FACILITIES IS GETTING MORE EXPENSIVE.
BUT...
MY ACTIONS MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT CLUMSY.

SHE WANTS US TO COOK SOME-THING.
CHIK

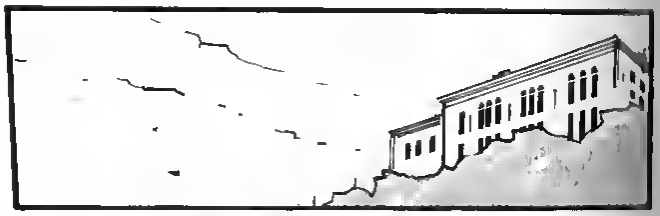
I ALREADY ATE.

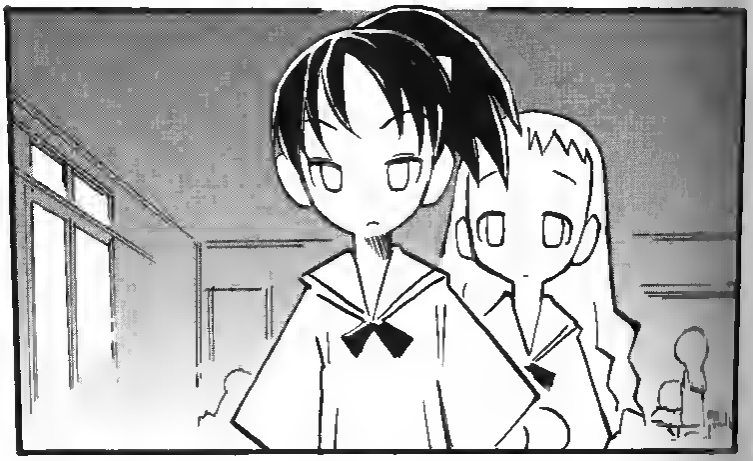

SHL-TUNK

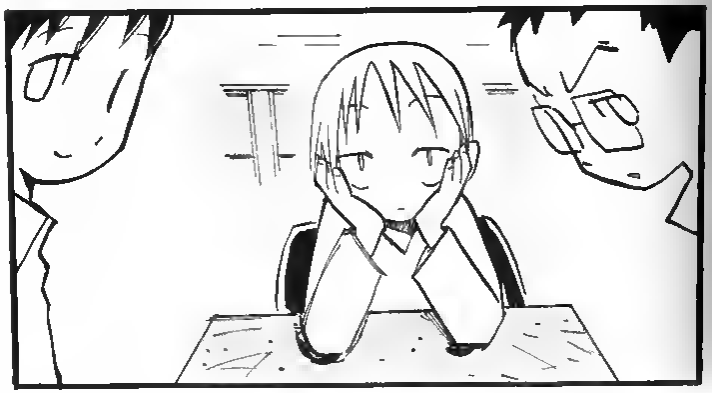

BUT THIS IS PROOF THAT YOUR "AFFEC-TIONATE" APPROACH WAS THE RIGHT ONE.
IT ESCAPED USING THAT "MASS-LEV" DEVICE DIRECTLY TO *YOUR* TOWN.
NOW THAT ONE UNIT IS RESISTING, THE THING WE ALL NEED MOST IS FOR YOU TO GO YOUR-SELF TO THE MAIN-LAND.. OR I SHOULD SAY, FOR YOU TO RETURN TO YOUR FIRST HOME!

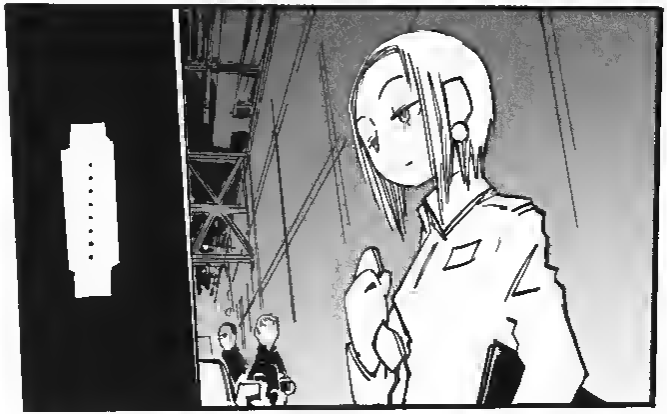
IT HAS TO BE *YOU* WHO HAS TO TELL THE GIS THAT THEY NEED TO OPEN THE HEARTS OF THE "GIRLS," OR THEY CAN'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING

USE THE STUFF IN THE FRIDGE?
I UNDERSTAND GOOD NIGHT.
YEAH... YEAH...





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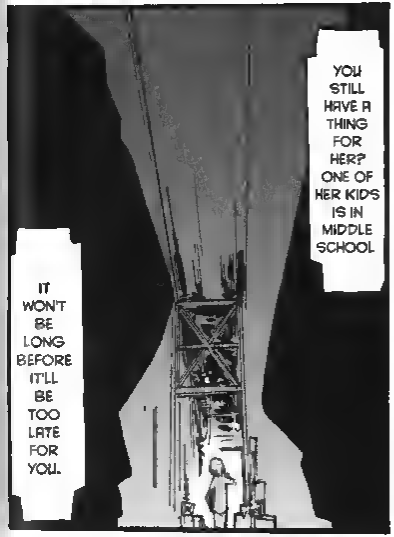
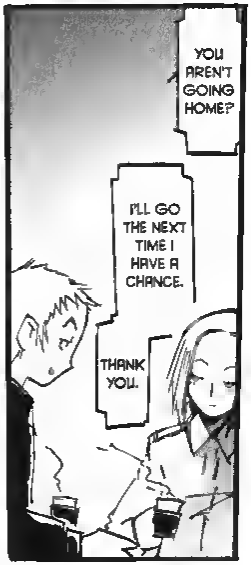
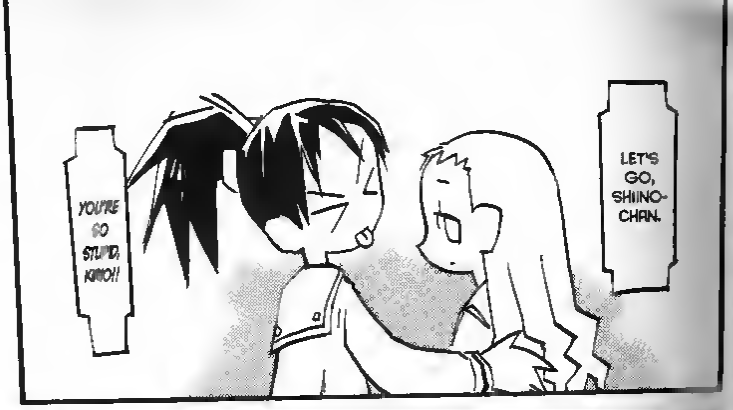
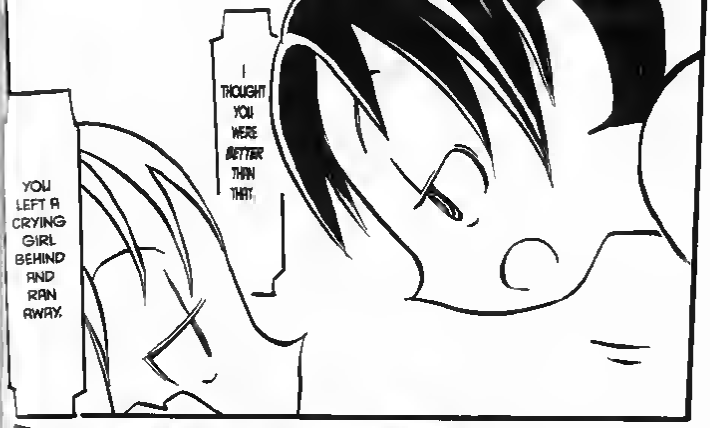
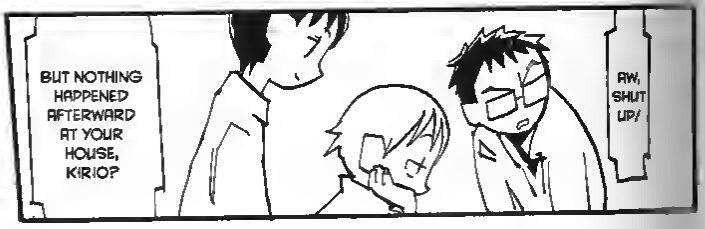

YOU STILL HAVE A THING FOR HER? ONE OF HER KID'S IS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE IT'LL BE TOO LATE FOR YOU.


YOU AREN'T GOING HOME?
I'LL GO THE NEXT TIME I HAVE A CHANCE.
THANK YOU.


YOU'RE SO STUPID, KIRIO!!
LET'S GO, SHIINO-CHAN.

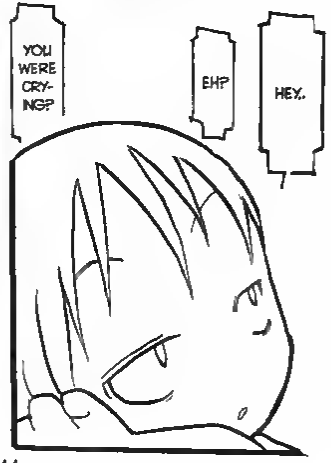

I THOUGHT YOU WERE BETTER THAN THAT.
YOU LEFT A CRYING GIRL BEHIND AND RAN AWAY.

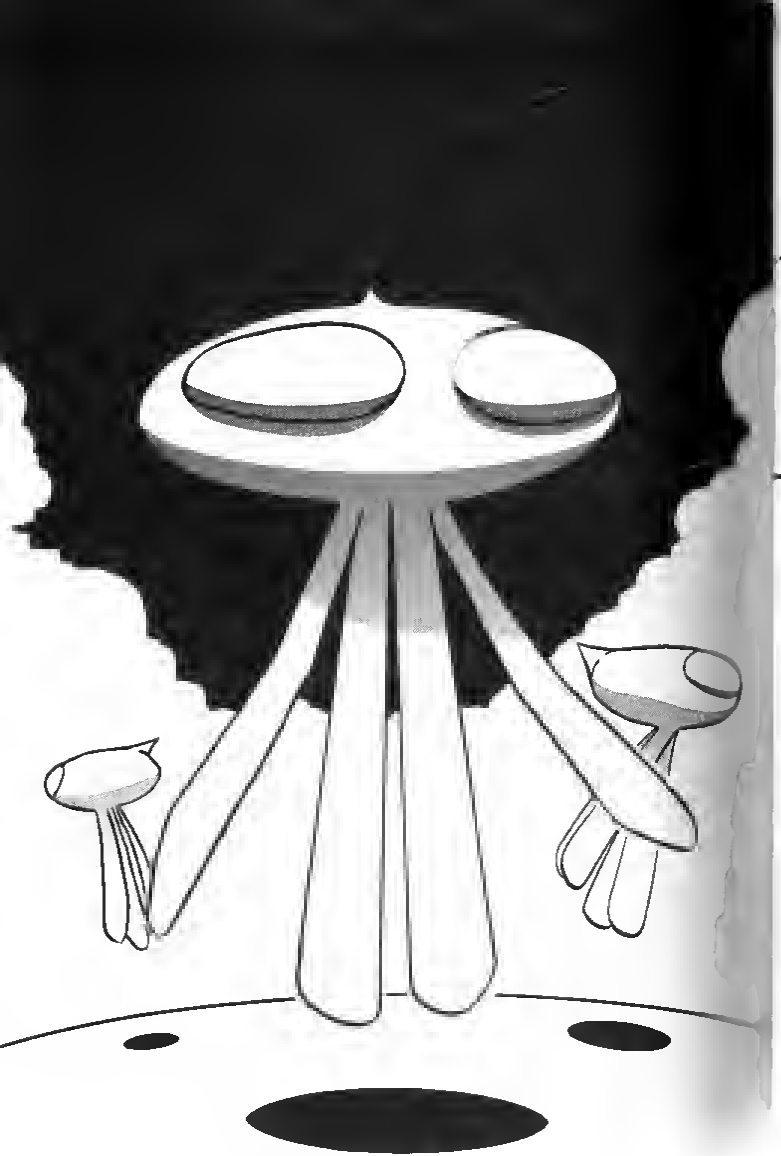

BUT NOTHING HAPPENED AFTERWARD AT YOUR HOUSE, KIRIO?
AW, SHUT UP!

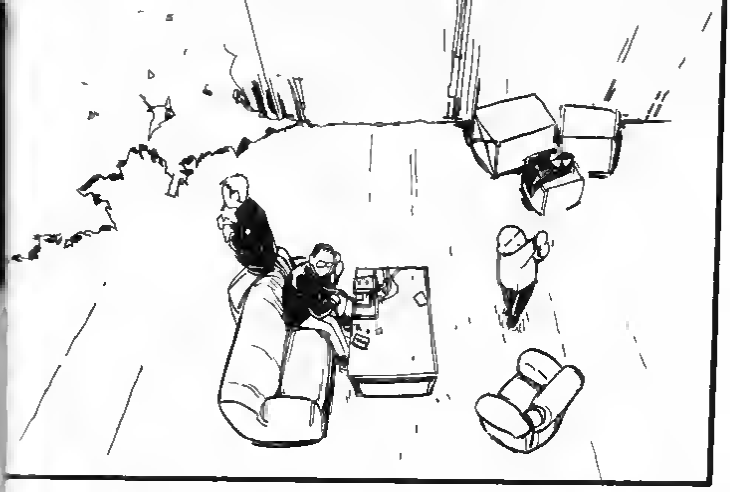
IT'S THE SAME THING, DUMMY!
HE DIDN'T RUN! JUST THE OPPOSITE!!

YOU GUYS WANT TO COME TO MY PLACE TODAY?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
.....

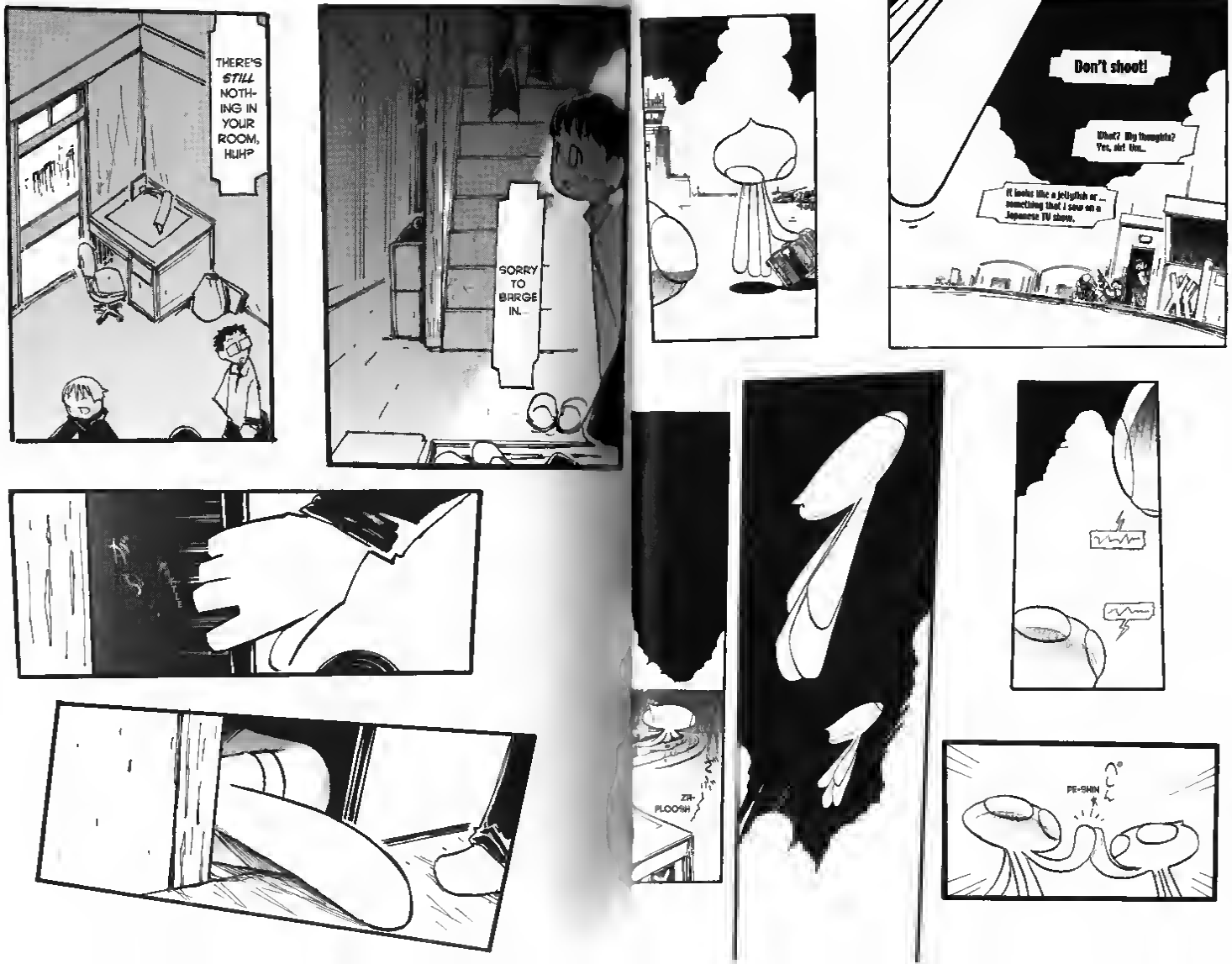

YOU WERE CRY-ING?
EH?
HEY..





NO SMOKING!!

THREE OF THEM.
THEY'VE RELEASED SOME SPACE ALIENS THEY'VE CAPTURED.
GENERAL, IT LOOKS LIKE THE AMERICAN FORCES ARE ON THE MOVE.


THERE'S STILL NOTHING IN YOUR ROOM, HUH?
SORRY TO BARGE IN.
Don't shoot!
What? My thoughts? Yes, sir! Um...
It looks like a jellyfish or... something that I saw on a Japanese TV show.
ZIP-PLOOSH
PE-SHIN

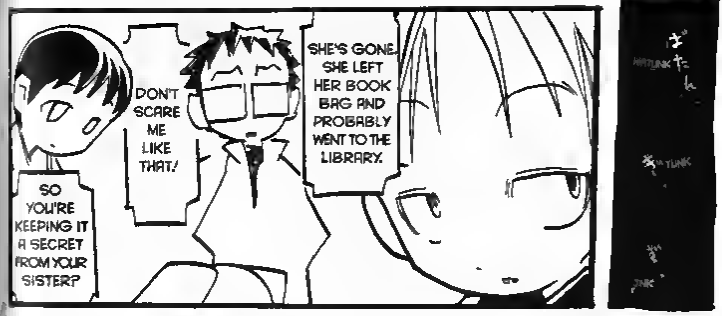
#3

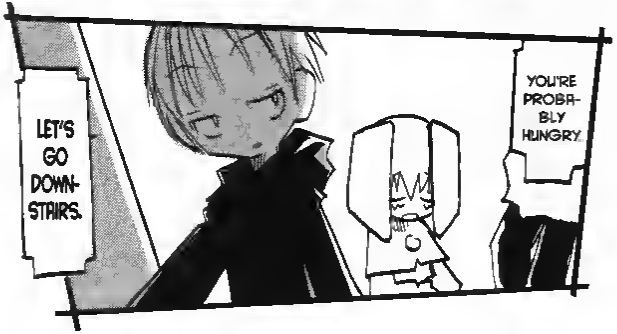
...THAT SHE'S DEAD...?
YOUR QUESTION'S TIMING IS ODD...
...N!!!
AH! GOOD MOR...
KYUUN

FURIKO'S BACK HOME. QUIET, OKAY?

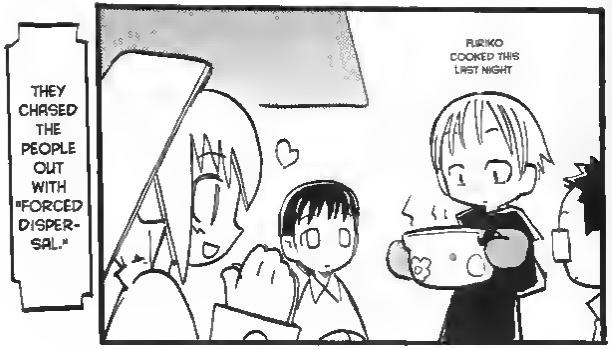
SHE WAS JUST OUTSIDE MY HOME YESTERDAY, AND FAINTED BECAUSE SHE WAS HUNGRY.
THAT MEANS...
WE JUST SWEATH'D!
YOU'RE KIDDING! THEN...

...WHAT?
...THIS IS...

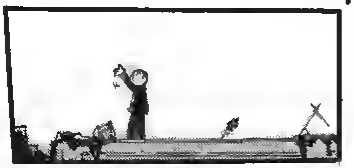

SO YOU'RE KEEPING IT A SECRET FROM YOUR SISTER?
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
SHE'S GONE. SHE LEFT HER BOOK BAG AND PROBABLY WENT TO THE LIBRARY.



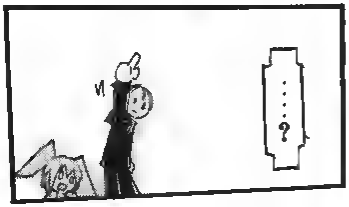
THESE 13 SPECIAL WARDS, BACK BEFORE THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT TOWERS, WAS A LAND WITH A DIFFERENT NAME, AND A DIFFENT RACE OF PEOPLE WERE LIVING HERE

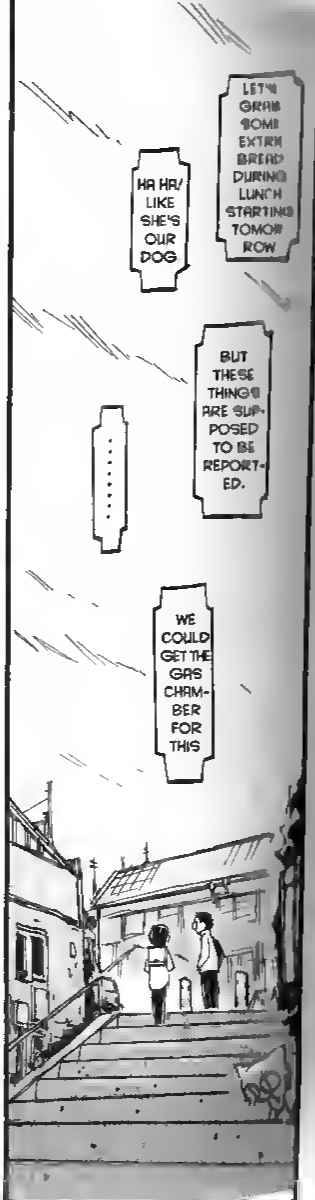


THAT'S JUST A RUMOR.
LOOK.



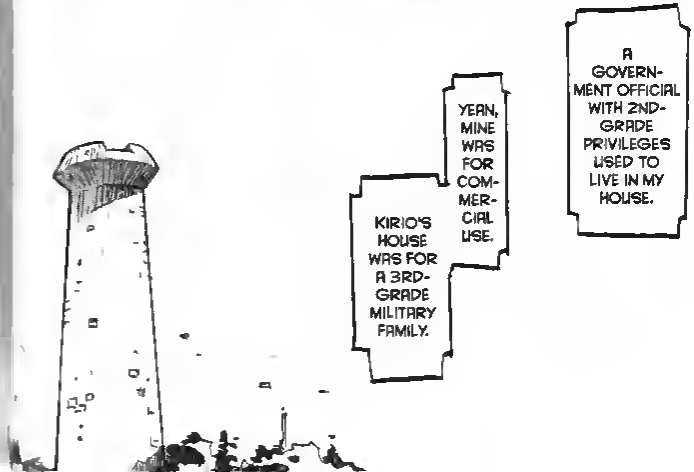
I WISH I HAD A ROOF I COULD CLIMB UP TO


.....?


LET'S GRAB SOME EXTRA BREAD DURING LUNCH STARTING TOMORROW
HA HA! LIKE SHE'S OUR DOG
BUT THESE THINGS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE REPORTED.
.....
WE COULD GET THE GAS CHAMBER FOR THIS

BUT EVERY NOW AND AGAIN, THE PEOPLE WHO WERE FORCED OUT COME BACK.
はぁ GULP
はぁ GULP

SHE ISN'T CHEWING IT.

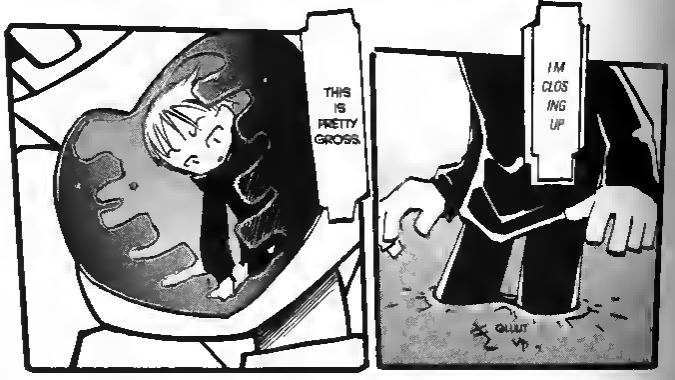

A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WITH 2ND-GRADE PRIVILEGES USED TO LIVE IN MY HOUSE.
YEAH, MINE WAS FOR COMMERCIAL USE.
KIRIO'S HOUSE WAS FOR A 3RD-GRADE MILITARY FAMILY.

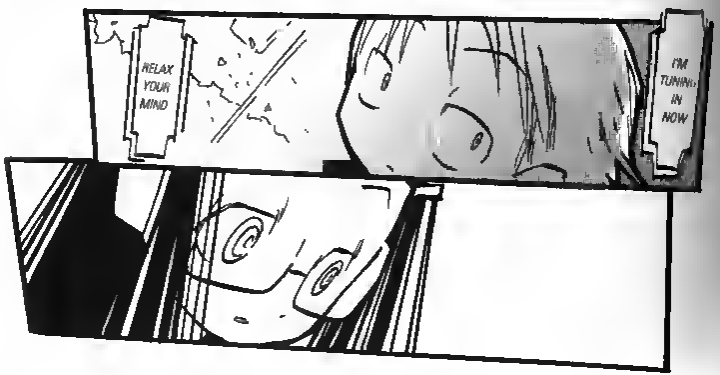
WEEEEE!
ドカ
THWKSHH
WHAT THE HELL?!?
I DON'T KNOW IF THEY CAN SURVIVE THAT!
KIRIO SAN!
I NEED TO BORROW YOUR NERVES!
EVEN IF I WERE PREPARED FOR *THAT*, IF I WERE TO TRY THIS ON MY OWN, I'D JUST RUN AND KEEP RUNNING!

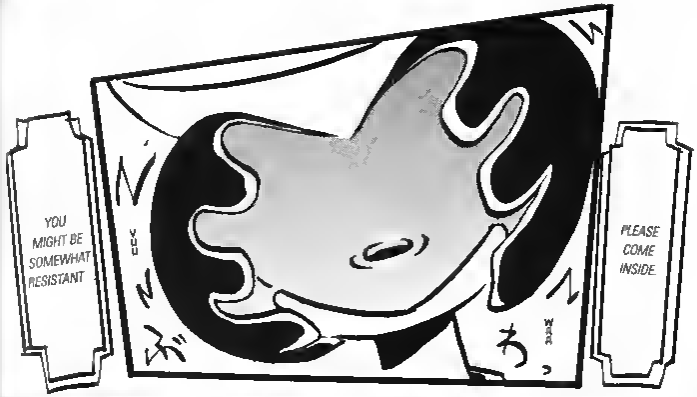
OH MY GOD!!!
WAAA!!

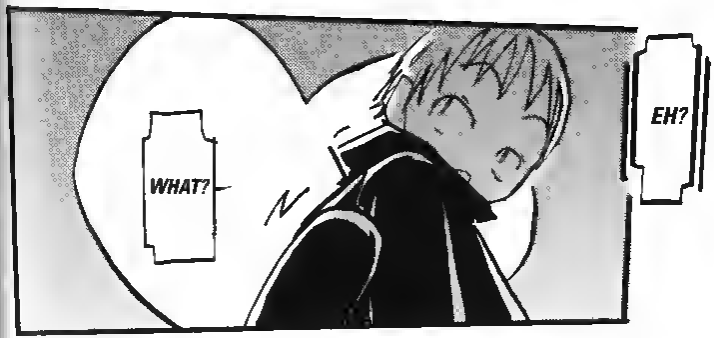
I AM A ROBOT.
AND I'M NOT HUMAN.
..THAT THING FROM BE-FORE..
CRASH

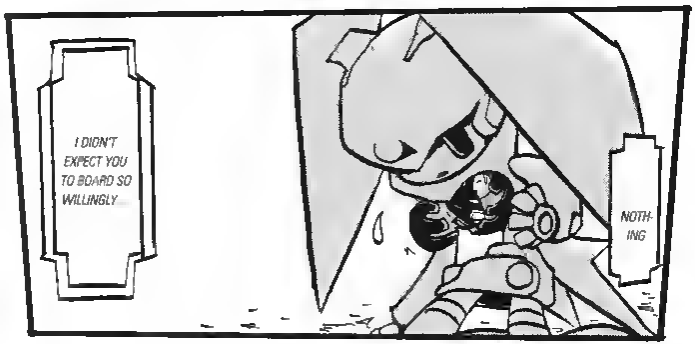
OH, NO...!!
WARP!


THIS IS PRETTY GROSS
I'M CLOSING UP


RELAX YOUR MIND
I'M TUNING IN NOW

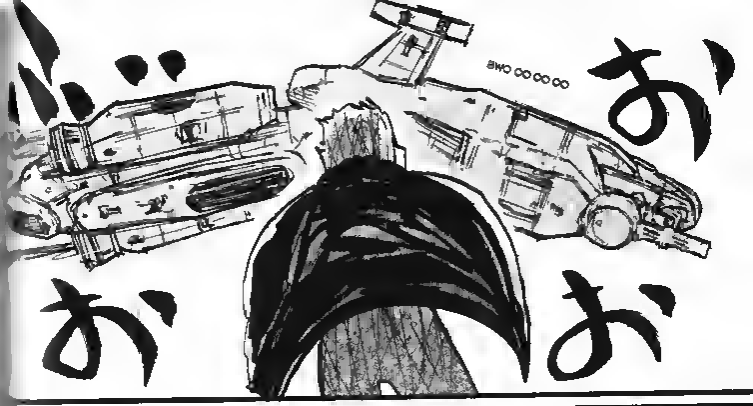

YOU MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT RESISTANT
PLEASE COME INSIDE


WHAT?
EH?


I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BOARD SO WILLINGLY...
NOTHING

I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET!
WAAAH
EH?! UM...
EEEYYY
EYAA!!
YOU.
COULD FLY, RIGHT?
GLOOK

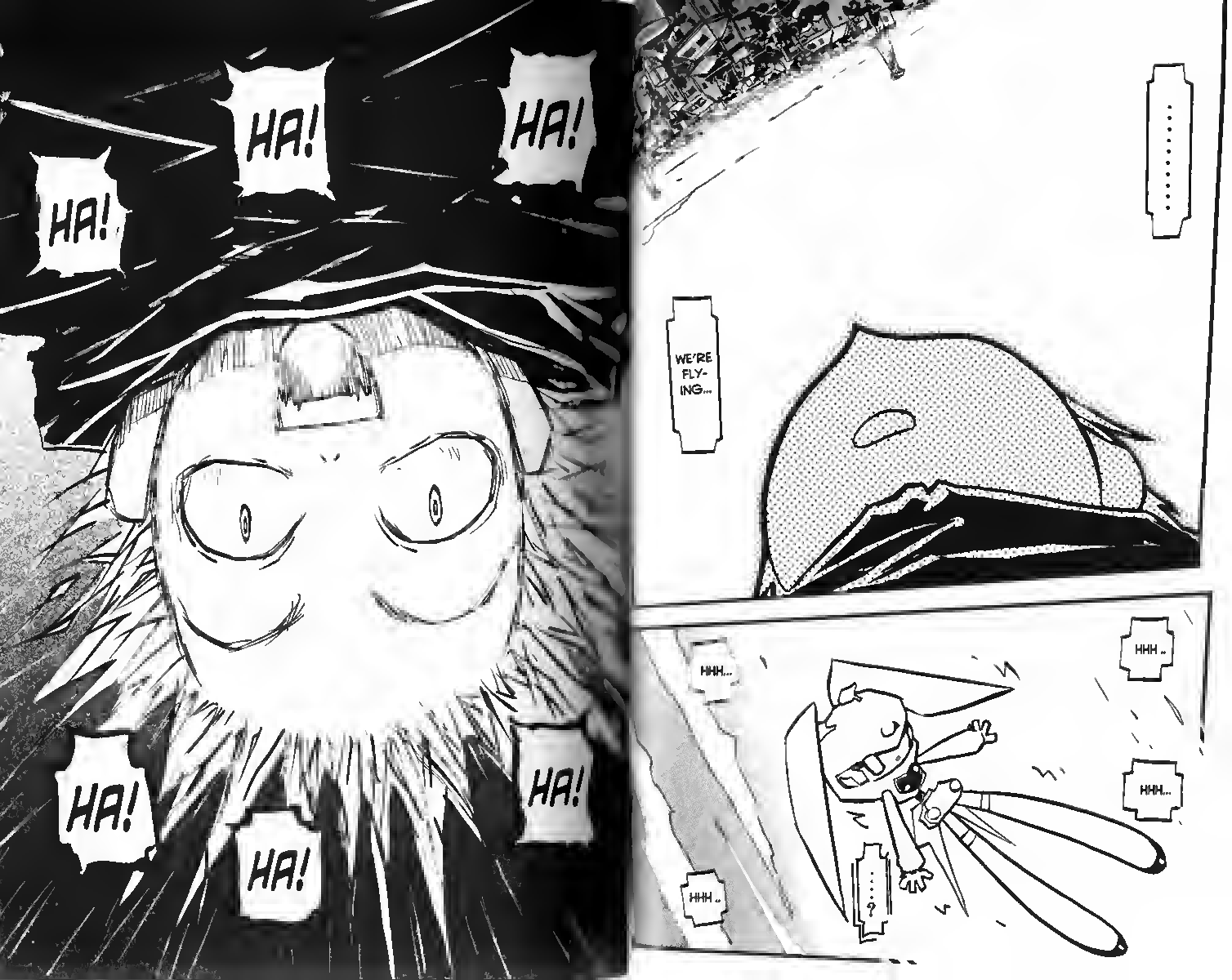
AND SINCE I'M FLEXIBLE, I CAN PILOT A THING LIKE THIS, THAT THEY'RE TOO EMBARRASSED TO FLY
WHEN I TREAT THEM AS FELLOW SAMURAI, THEY DO WHAT I ASK OF THEM.
WOO
WOO
WOO
LET'S MAKE SURE WE TAKE ALL OF THEM OUT
ROGER THAT. BUT THERE WILL BE MORE COMING TO THE 13 WARDS. IT LOOKS LIKE THE ALIEN IS TRACING YOUR DOLL.
PLACE A MARKER/ THAT'S ALL/ REPEAT THAT ORDER/
YOU MEAN THAT'S NOT JUST BRAGGING?
THE LIEUTENANT SAYS HE'S SHOT DOWN DOZENS OF ALIENS ON THE MAINLAND
AH/ YOU WERE *ONLY* TALKING ABOUT THE ALIENS, RIGHT?
HE GOT CAUGHT IN A TREE. HE SAYS THAT HE SAW SOMETHING REALLY AMAZING.
WHERE'S THAT FRIEND OF YOURS THAT YOU SAID BAILED OUT?


BWO OO OO OO
お
お

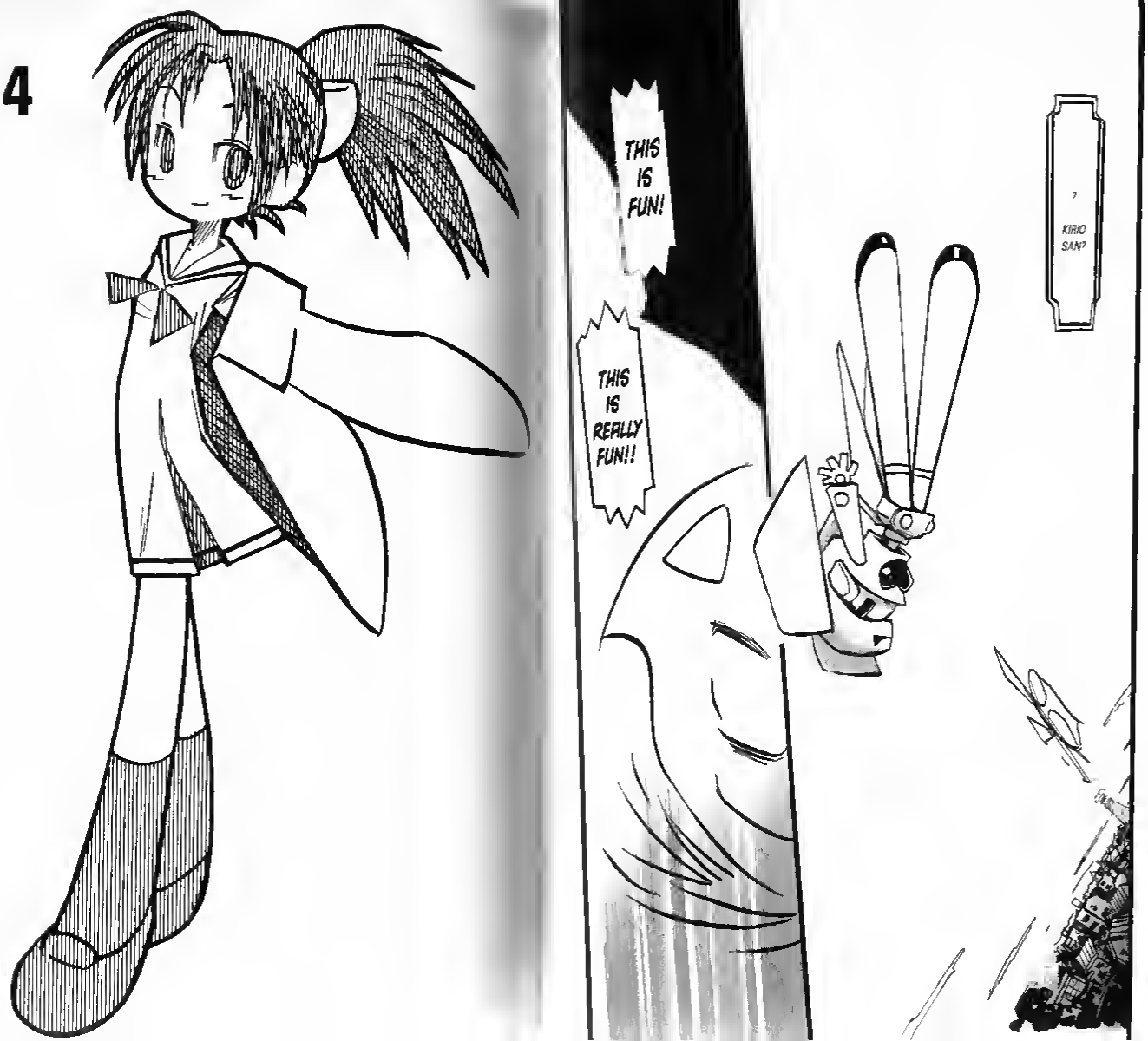
IT SHOWS THAT THE GUY'S GOT SPIRIT.
IT'S BECAUSE HE SHOWED NO PATIENCE AND ATTACKED. EVEN THE AMERICANS HELD THEIR FIRE!!
PIIYOO
PIIYOO

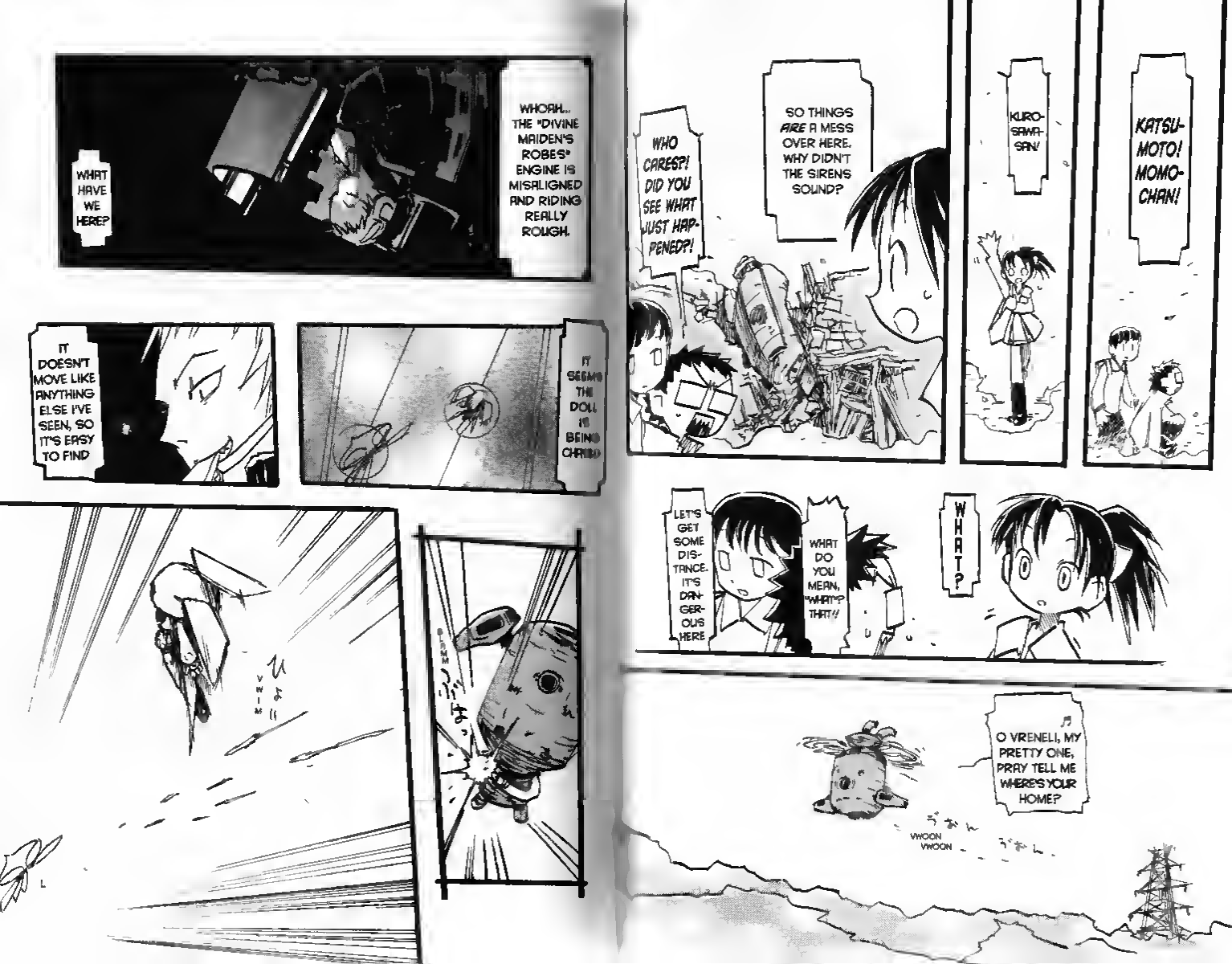
HUH?!
THE PEOPLE HERE HAVE AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX WHEN THEY DEAL WITH US MAINLAND GUYS. IF WE DON'T TREAT THEM WELL, THEY'LL NEVER LISTEN TO US.
LISTEN MAJOR...
WHAT ARE YOU ...?!

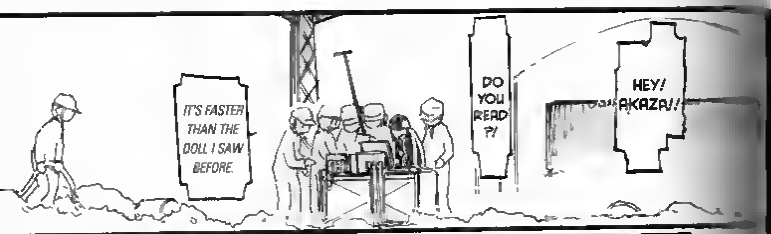
SKRCRSH
AWFUL PILOTING
BUT IT DIDN'T CATCH FIRE, SO IT'S OKAY


HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
.....
WE'RE FLY-ING...
HHH..
HHH...
HHH..
HHH...
.....?

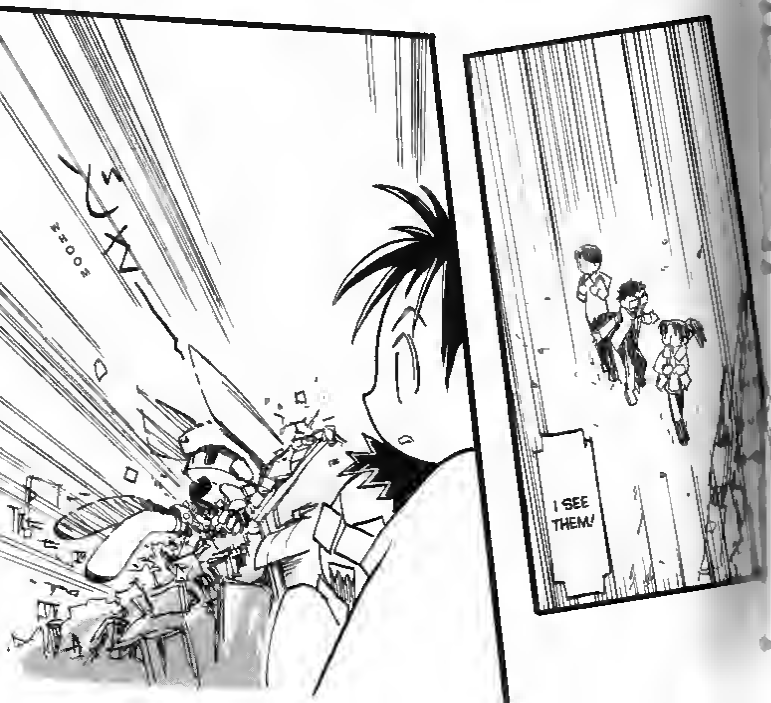
#4



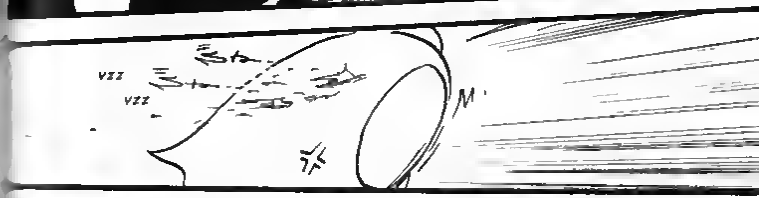

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
WHOAH... THE "DIVINE MAIDEN'S ROBES" ENGINE IS MISALIGNED AND RIDING REALLY ROUGH.
IT DOESN'T MOVE LIKE ANYTHING ELSE I'VE SEEN, SO IT'S EASY TO FIND
IT SEEMS THE DOLL IS BEING CHASED
WHO CARES?! DID YOU SEE WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
SO THINGS ARE A MESS OVER HERE. WHY DIDN'T THE SIRENS SOUND?
KURO-SAWA-SAN!
KATSU-MOTO! MOMO-CHAN!
LET'S GET SOME DIS-TANCE. IT'S DAN-GER-OUS HERE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT"? THAT!!
WHAT?
O VRENELI, MY PRETTY ONE, PRAY TELL ME WHERE'S YOUR HOME?
VWOON VWOON

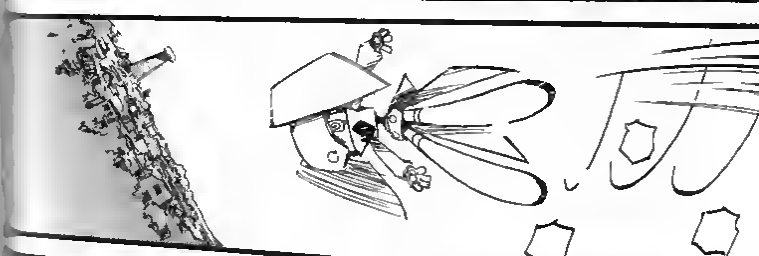

IT'S FASTER THAN THE DOLL I SAW BEFORE.
DO YOU READ ?/
HEY! AKAZA!!

BUT THE LIEUTENANT MANAGED TO HIT THE ALIEN!
THAT BASTARD!!!!

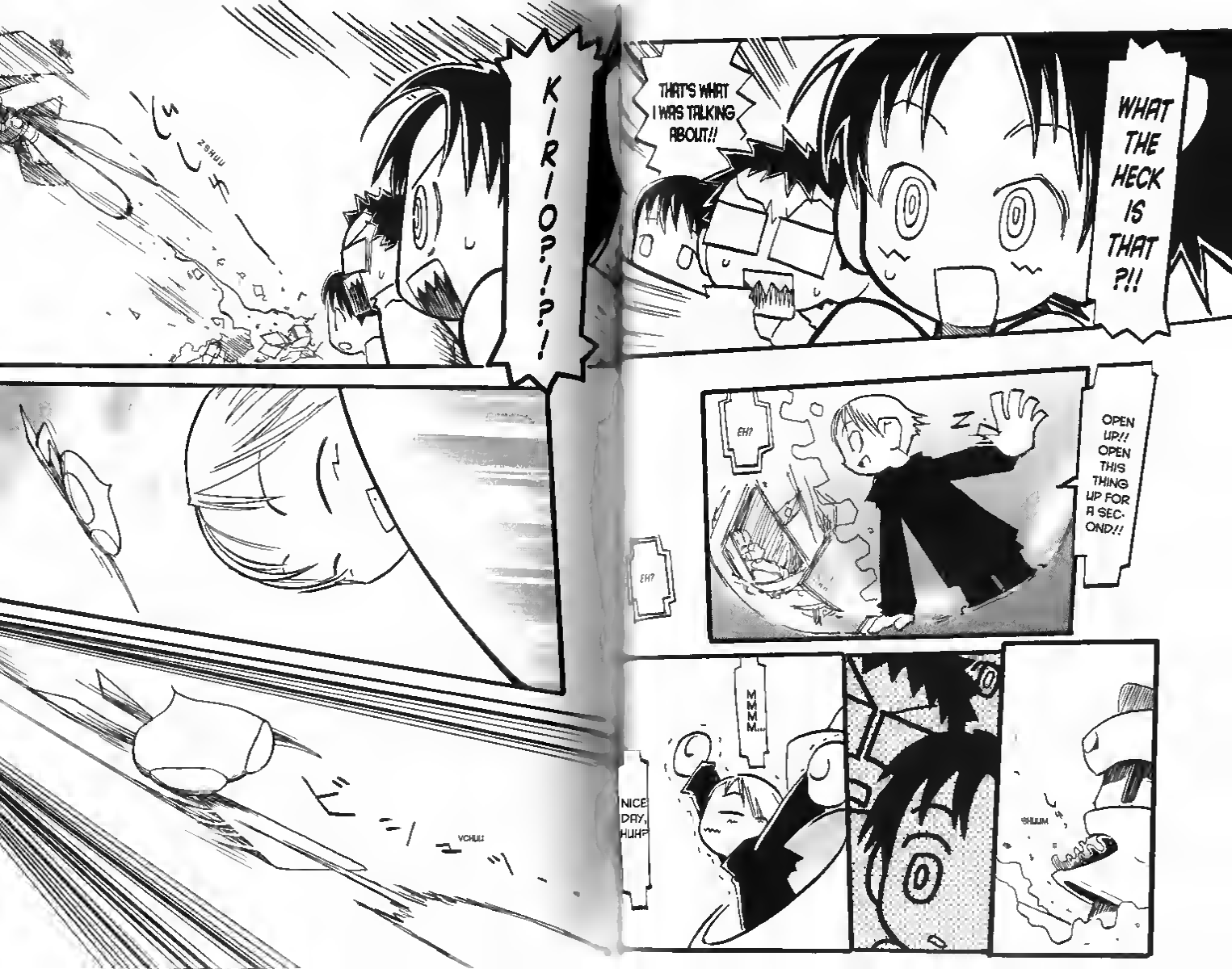

ZOOSS
I SEE THEM!

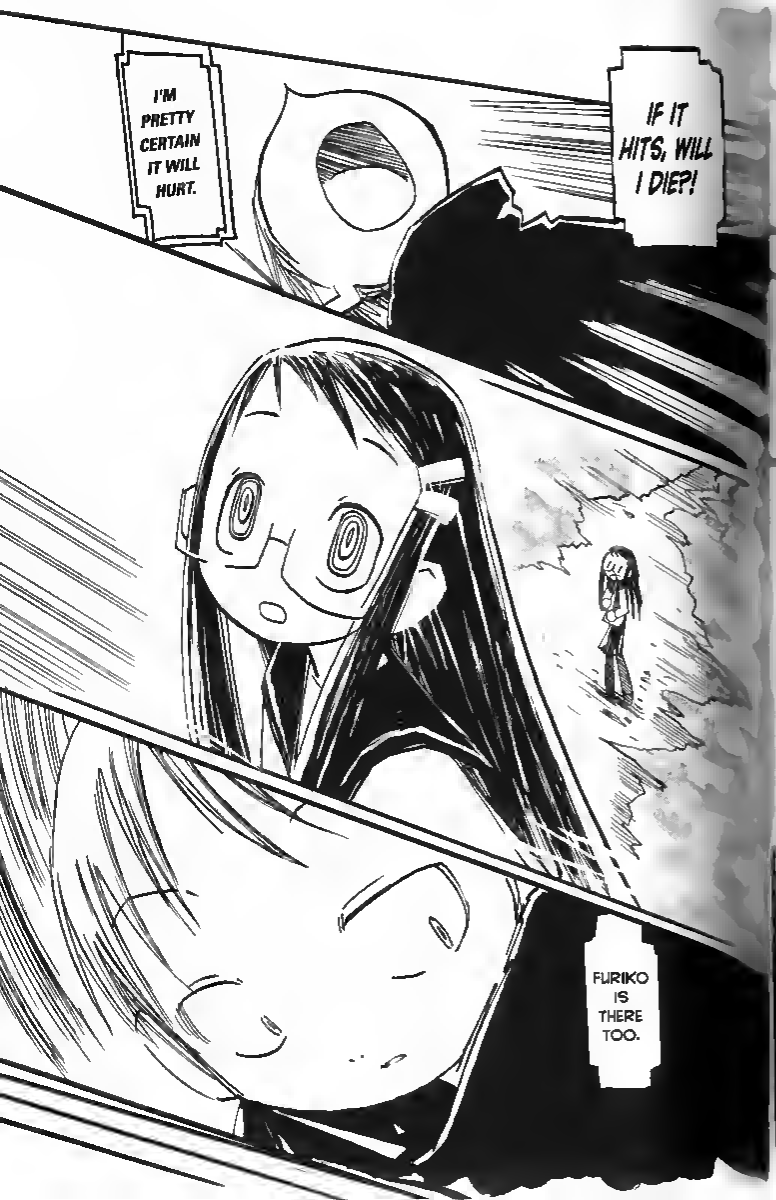
IT DOESN'T MOVE LIKE THEY SAY IT DOES.
I TOLD YOU TO HOLD YOUR FIRE!

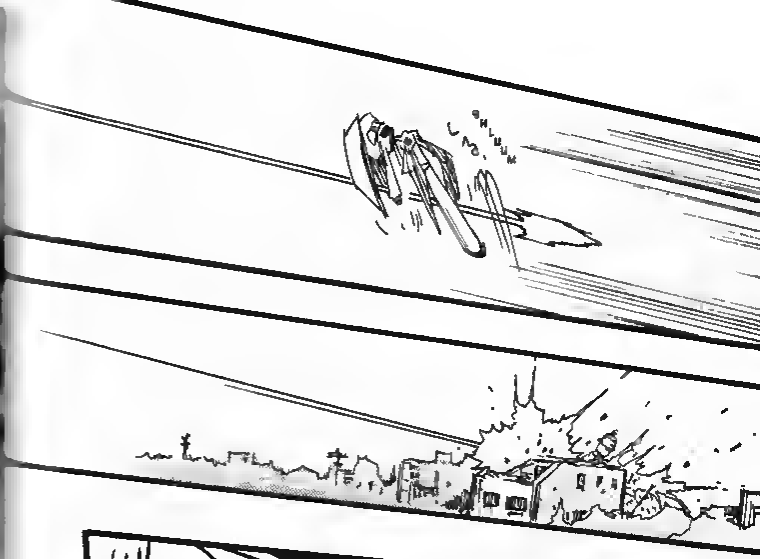

VZZ
VZZ



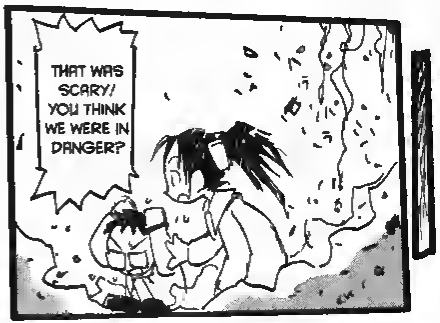
I'M FEELING DIZZY! I'M GOING BACK TO TOWN!
AAAAA!
HA, HA, HA! JUST WHAT IS THAT?
HAHH.. HAHH.. HAHH..

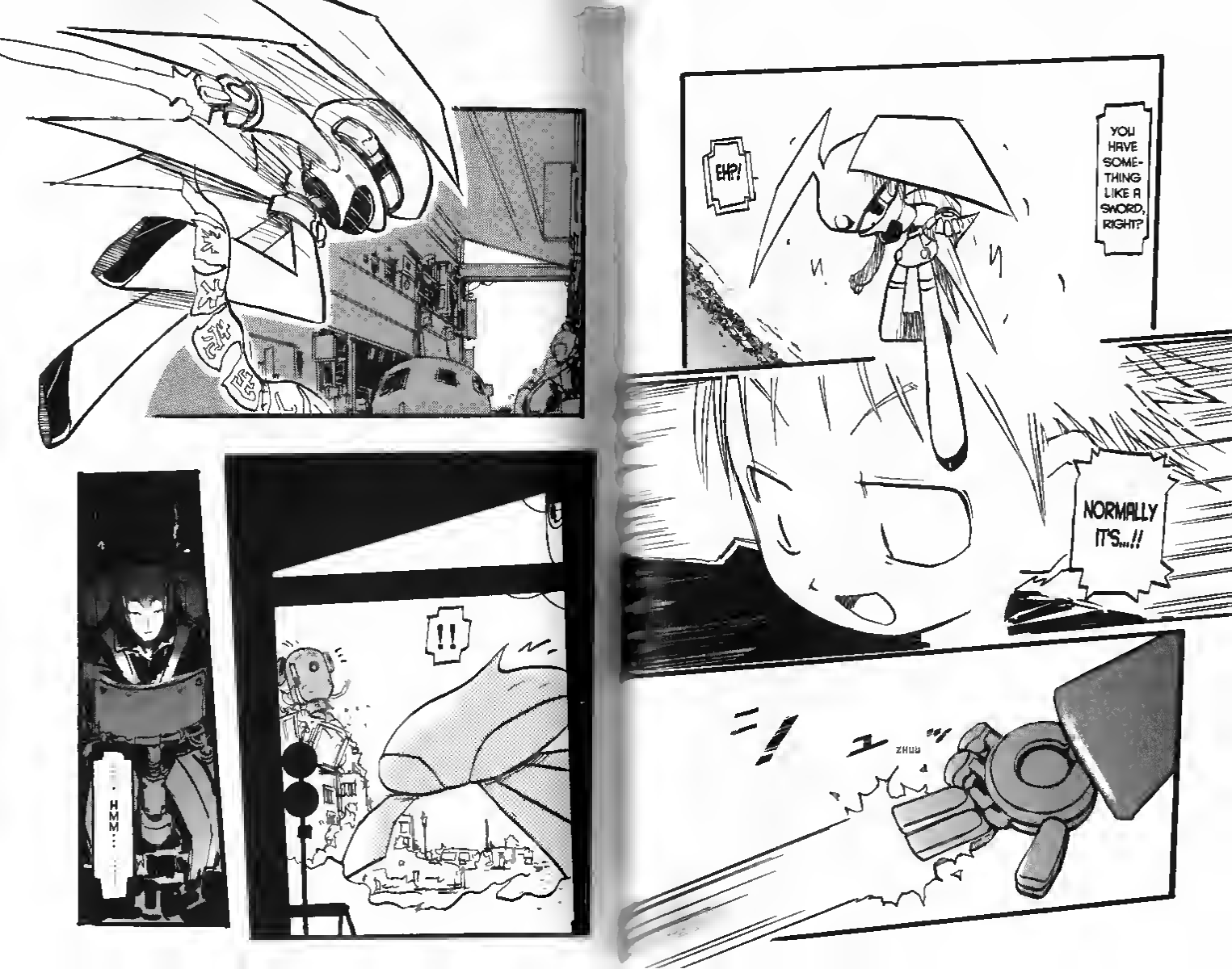

KIRIOP!?!
ZSHUU
VOHUU
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!!
THAT'S WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT!!
EH?
EH?
OPEN UP!! OPEN THIS THING UP FOR A SECOND!!
MMM...
NICE DAY, HUH?
SHUUM

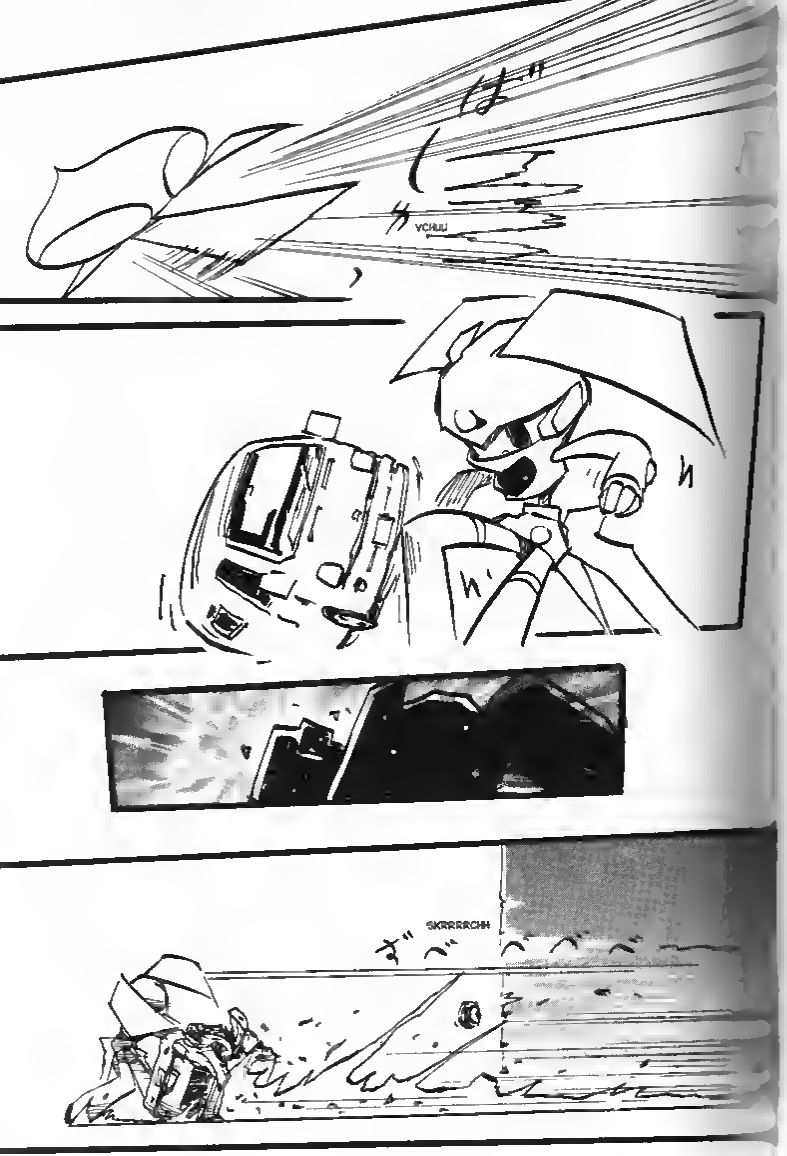

I'M PRETTY CERTAIN IT WILL HURT.
IF IT HITS, WILL I DIE?!
FURIKO IS THERE TOO.

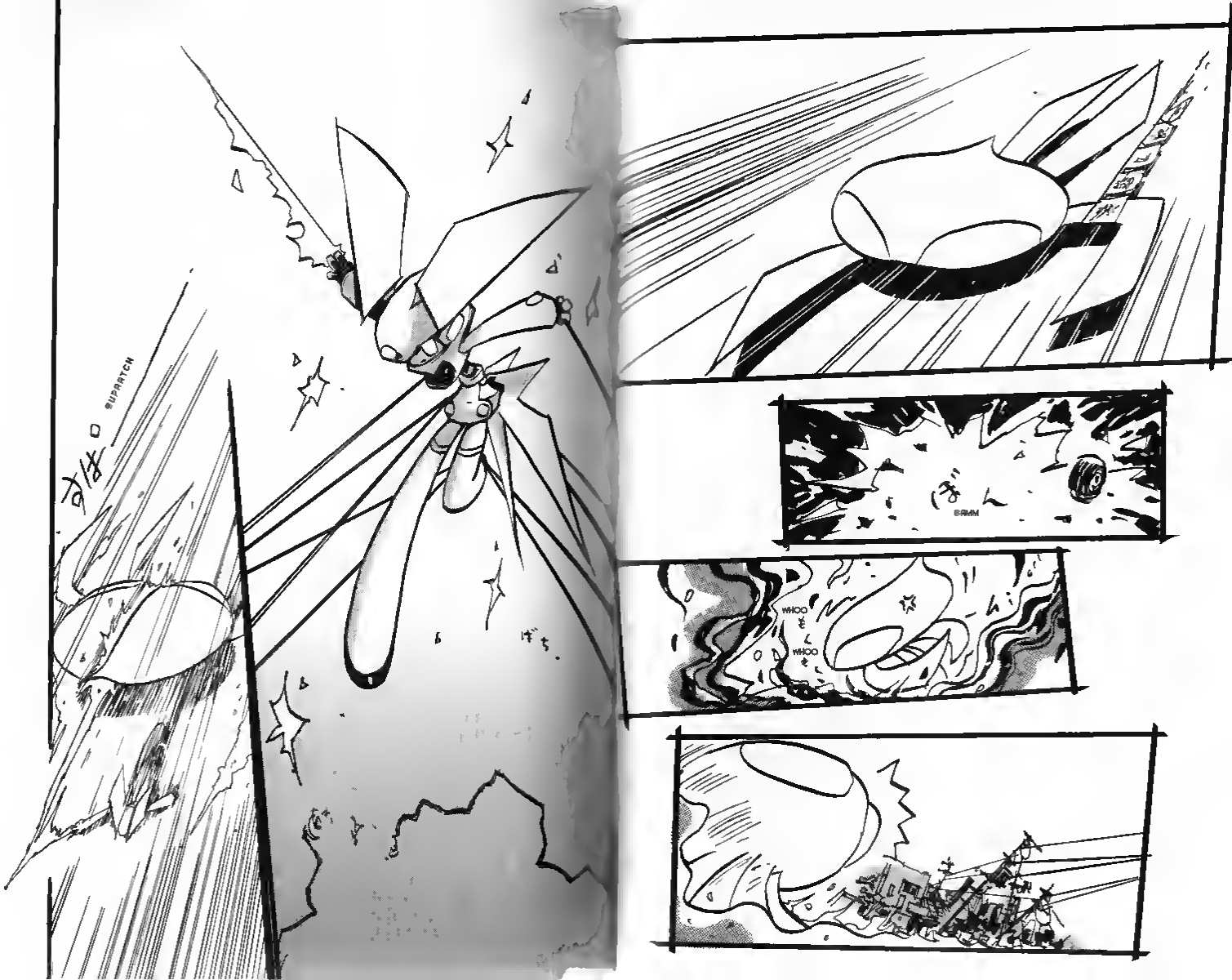

NO-BODY EVER SAID ANY-THING.
I NEVER HEARD ANY-THING ABOUT THAT!
IT'S LIKE A CAN-NON SHOT!

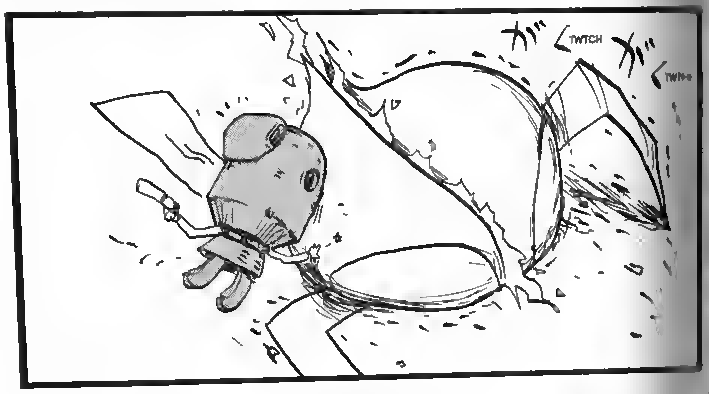
IT'S GET AWAY. THIS WAY.

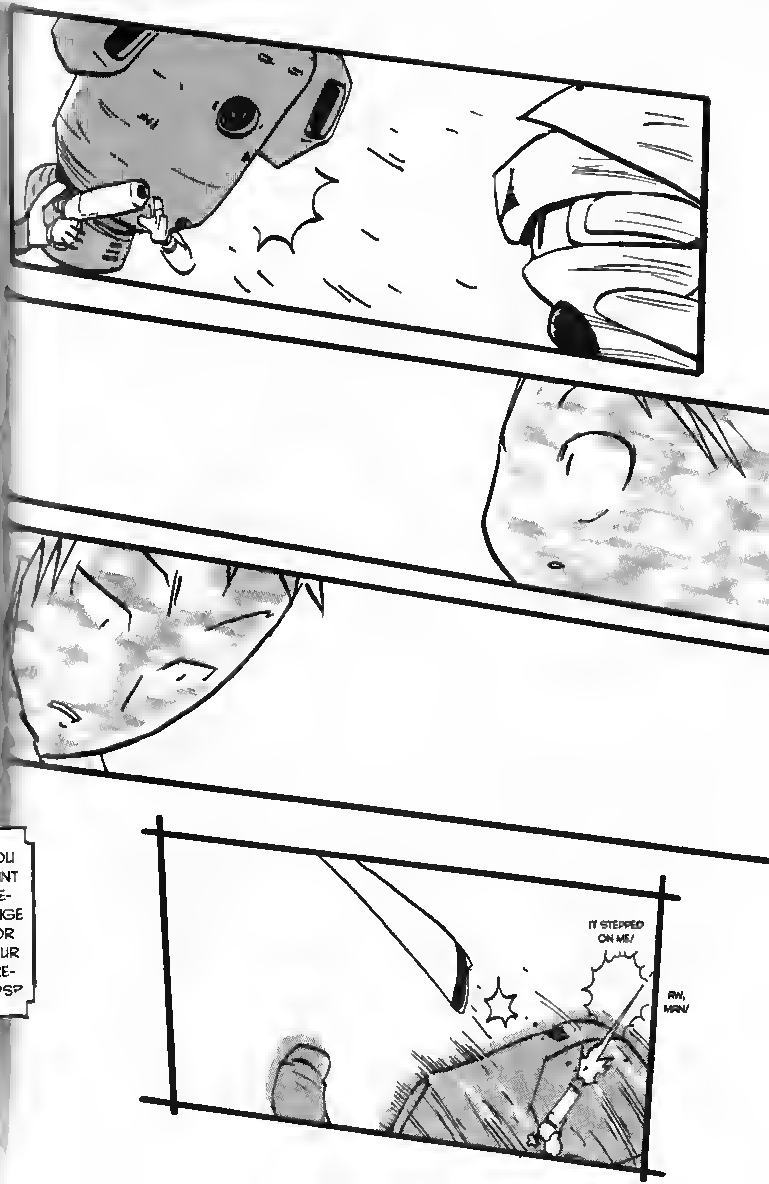

THAT WAS SCARY! YOU THINK WE WERE IN DANGER?


EH?!
YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE A SWORD, RIGHT?
NORMALLY IT'S...!!
ZHUU
!!
HMM...

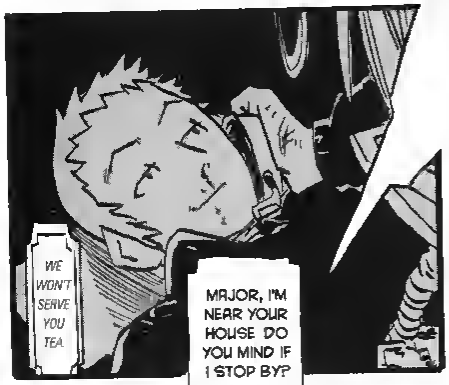

VCHUU
SKRRRRCHH


SUPARTCH
BRRM
WHOO
WHOO


TWITCH
TWITCH


IT STEPPED ON ME!
AW, MAN!
YOU WANT RE-VENGE FOR YOUR FRE-INDS?
WAIT!
I'M WILL-ING TO LET YOU.
DO YOU READ ME?
BMP
BMP
DO IT! COME ON!
YOU WANNA TAKE ME ON ONE LAST SHOT?
GET AWAY FROM THERE! IT'S TRY ING TO CRYSTAL LIZE!
IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS PRE-PARED TO DIE.
OH

IS THIS THE END OF ANOTHER INCI-DENT?
AKAZA, WAIT FOR PICK UP
WE'VE LOST THE DOLL, MA'AM


WE WON'T SERVE YOU TEA.
MAJOR, I'M NEAR YOUR HOUSE DO YOU MIND IF I STOP BY?

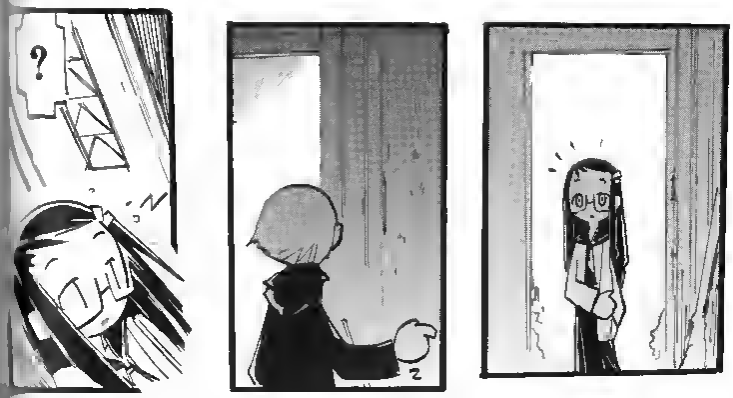
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
AHHH! YOU MEAN IT?!
HEH HEH IT'LL CRYSTAL-IZE AT YOUR HORNETS TOO.
THAT'S ONE SCARY MON-STER.

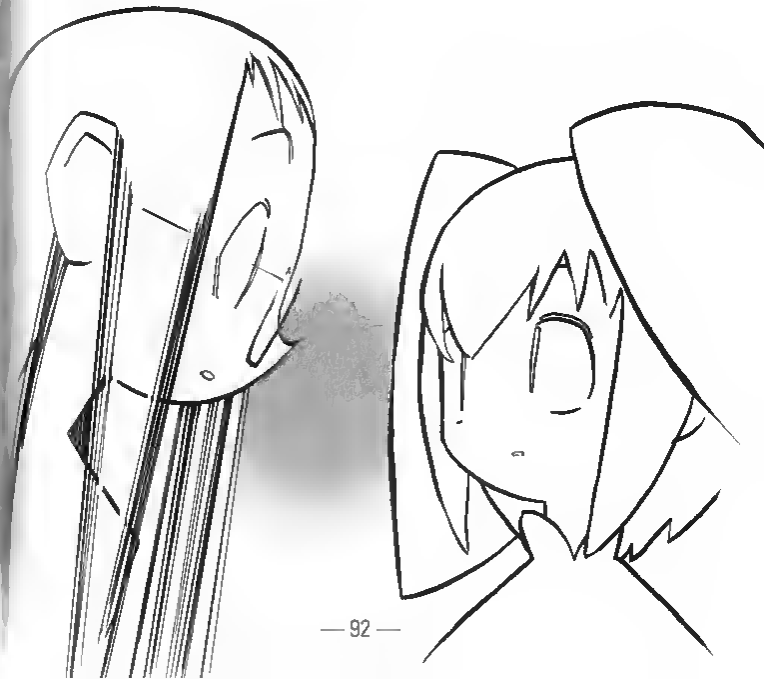
GLMM

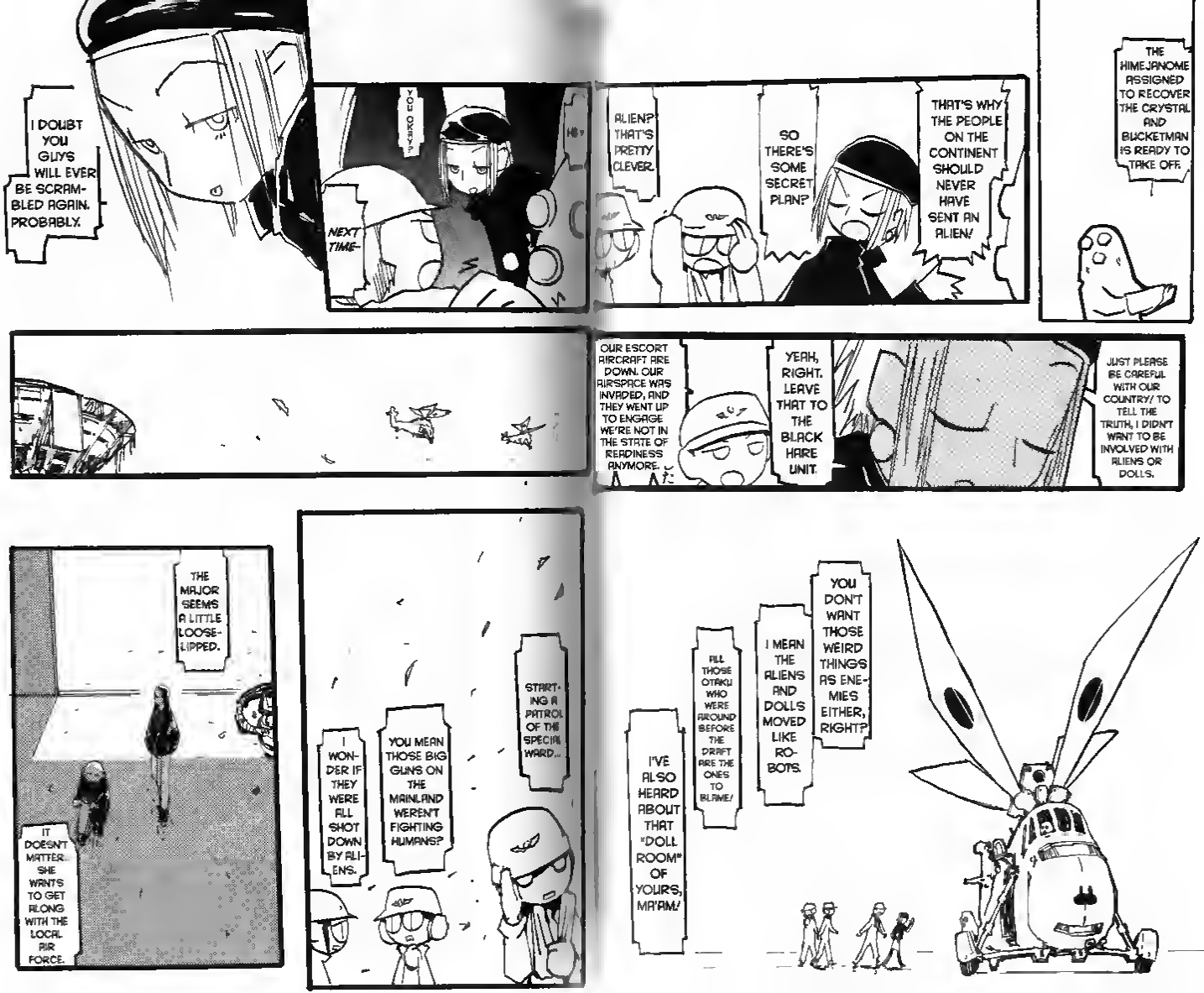
SHCHKK
DHMMM

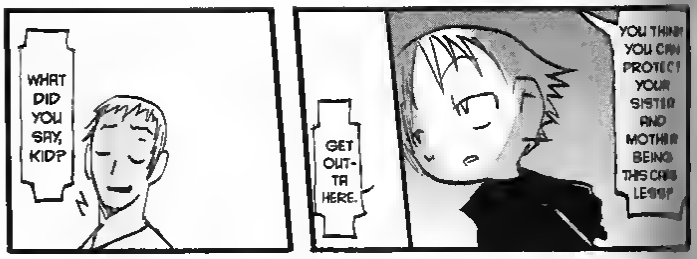
A MOTHER AND TWO KIDS IN AN ABANDONED APARTMENT LIKE THIS.
EATING ON A TERRACE... MUST BE NICE.
BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD LOCK UP WHEN YOU GO OUT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MUCH HUMANITY HAS ADVANCED IN THE SPECIAL WARDS..
THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PERCENTAGE OF MANKIND WITH BAD INTENTIONS
YOU SEEM TO KNOW MY MOVEMENTS, BUT YOU ALSO KNOW MY SPECIAL FUNCTIONS.
UNN... WHY..?
THAT WAS A LOT OF FUN! LET'S DO IT AGAIN, HUH?
GRRSH
KRRSH
OW! OW!
YOU ASKED ME TO BOARD YOU!
GO TO MY ROOM

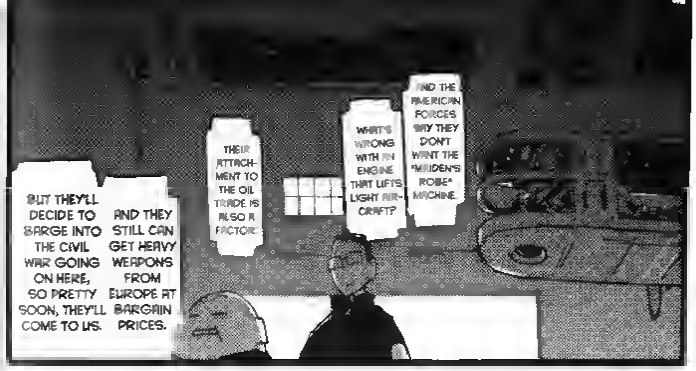
#5

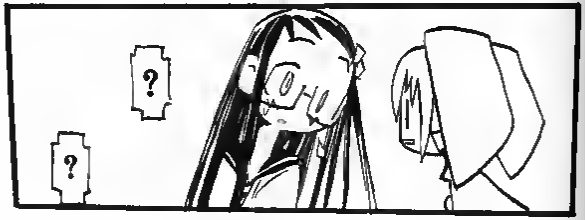





I DOUBT YOU GUYS WILL EVER BE SCRAMBLED AGAIN. PROBABLY.
YOU OKAY?
HU?
NEXT TIME-
ALIEN? THAT'S PRETTY CLEVER.
SO THERE'S SOME SECRET PLAN?
THAT'S WHY THE PEOPLE ON THE CONTINENT SHOULD NEVER HAVE SENT AN ALIEN!
THE HIMEJANOME ASSIGNED TO RECOVER THE CRYSTAL AND BUCKETMAN IS READY TO TAKE OFF.
OUR ESCORT AIRCRAFT ARE DOWN. OUR AIRSPACE WAS INVADED, AND THEY WENT UP TO ENGAGE WE'RE NOT IN THE STATE OF READINESS ANYMORE.
YEAH, RIGHT. LEAVE THAT TO THE BLACK HARE UNIT.
JUST PLEASE BE CAREFUL WITH OUR COUNTRY/ TO TELL THE TRUTH, I DIDN'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH ALIENS OR DOLLS.
THE MAJOR SEEMS A LITTLE LOOSE-LIPPED.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. SHE WANTS TO GET ALONG WITH THE LOCAL AIR FORCE.
I WONDER IF THEY WERE ALL SHOT DOWN BY ALIENS.
YOU MEAN THOSE BIG GUNS ON THE MAINLAND WEREN'T FIGHTING HUMANS?
STARTING A PATROL OF THE SPECIAL WARD...
I'VE ALSO HEARD ABOUT THAT "DOLL ROOM" OF YOURS, MA'AM!
ALL THOSE OTAKU WHO WERE AROUND BEFORE THE DRIFT ARE THE ONES TO BLAME!
I MEAN THE ALIENS AND DOLLS MOVED LIKE ROBOTS.
YOU DON'T WANT THOSE WEIRD THINGS AS ENEMIES EITHER, RIGHT?


WHAT DID YOU SAY, KID?
GET OUT-TA HERE.
YOU THINK YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR SISTER AND MOTHER BEING THIS CAN LESS?

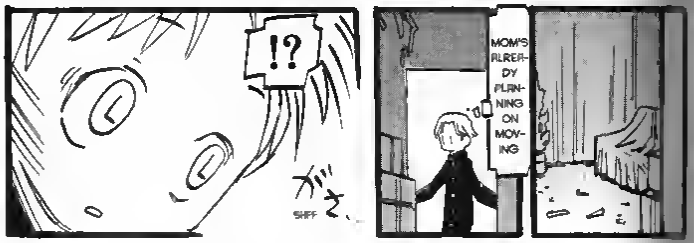

BUT THEY'LL DECIDE TO BARGE INTO THE CIVIL WAR GOING ON HERE, SO PRETTY SOON, THEY'LL COME TO US.
AND THEY STILL CAN GET HEAVY WEAPONS FROM EUROPE AT BARGAIN PRICES.
THEIR ATTACHMENT TO THE OIL TRADE IS ALSO A FACTOR.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH AN ENGINE THAT LIFTS LIGHT AIRCRAFT?
AND THE AMERICAN FORCES WHY THEY DON'T WANT THE "MILDEN'S ROBIE" MACHINE.

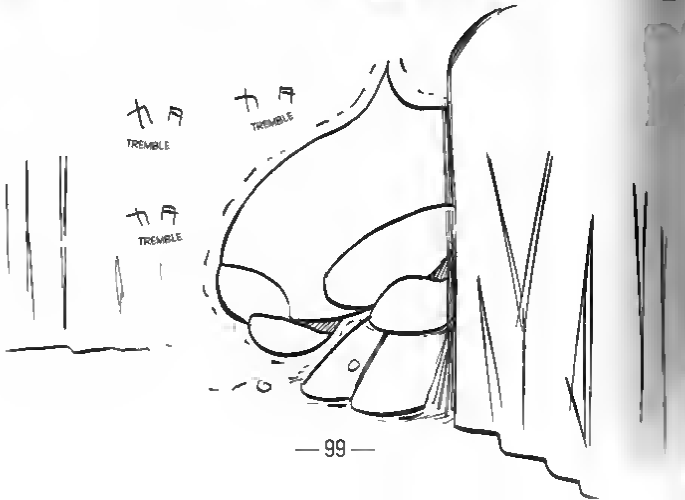

?
?

KEEESE EREN

YO.
YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER, BUT WE MET WHEN YOU WERE A BABY.

NO! YOU CAN'T!
STAY WITH ME! AND LET YOUR BROTHER HANDLE THIS.
LET'S GO SEE
EH?!
SOMETHING CAME THROUGH THE HOLE THAT WAS BROKEN THROUGH THE ROOF! I'M SURE OF IT!

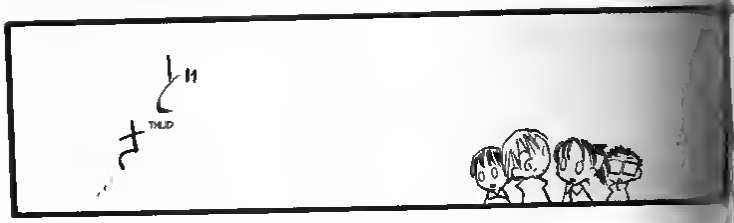

!?
SHFF
MOM'S ALREADY PLANNING ON MOVING

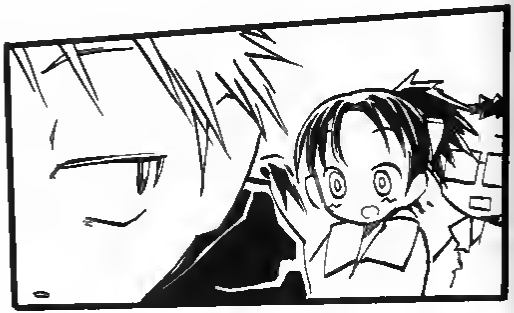

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

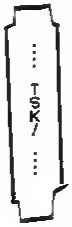
THIS WAS THE PERSON...? THE ONE REGISTERED AS THE PLAYER...?!
AH..
IT WAS THIS PERSON...?!
BUT WASN'T A FLAG RAISED WHEN I MET KIRIO-SAN, TOO..?!
UM..

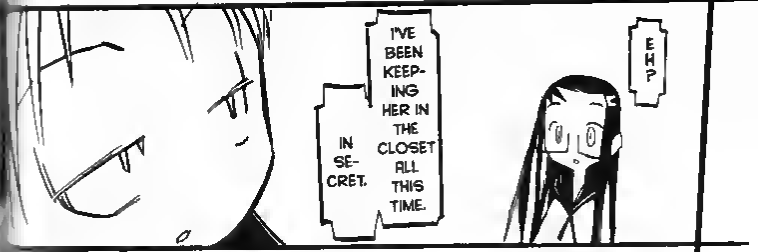
EH?!
SHOULDN'T I BE ASKING YOU THAT?!
PLEASE... WHO ARE YOU?

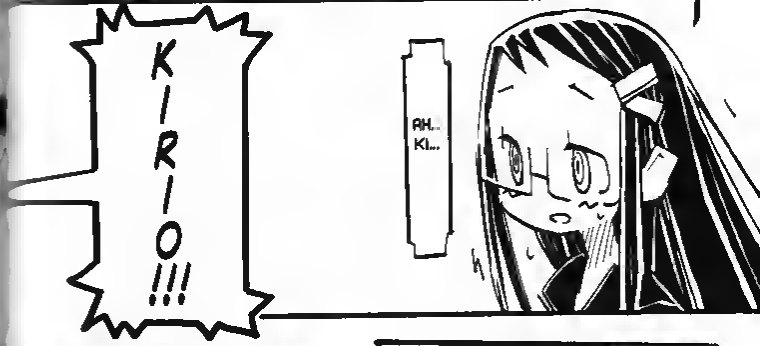
THAT GUY... IS HE MOM'S.
OR MAYBE HE ACTUALLY HAS SOMETHING.
HIS BREATHING IS REGULAR.
LOOK AT THOSE DEAD EYES. IS HE PREPARED TO TAKE A BEATING?
!EUTENANT ARE YOU FAR FROM YOUR MACHINE?
EXIT
YOU UGLY LITTLE...
A FRIEND OF YOURS?
YOU'RE SNEAKING GIRLS INTO THE HOUSE THESE DAYS?
SHE'S BEEN HERE SINCE YESTERDAY.
YOU!! DON'T COME OUT LIKE THIS! GO TO MY ROOM NOW!
SEE YOU LATER, FURIKO-CHAN!!
SAY HI TO YOUR MOM FOR ME.
SEE YOU, KID
I'LL BE GOING NOW.

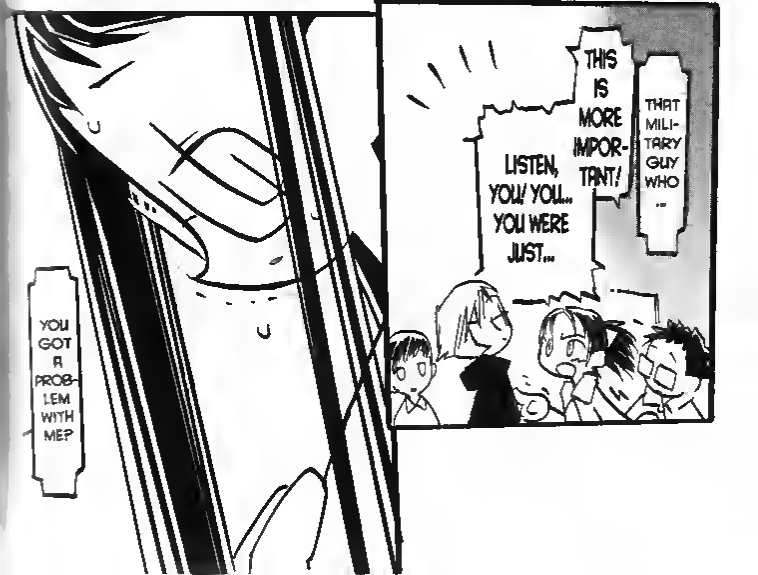

THUD

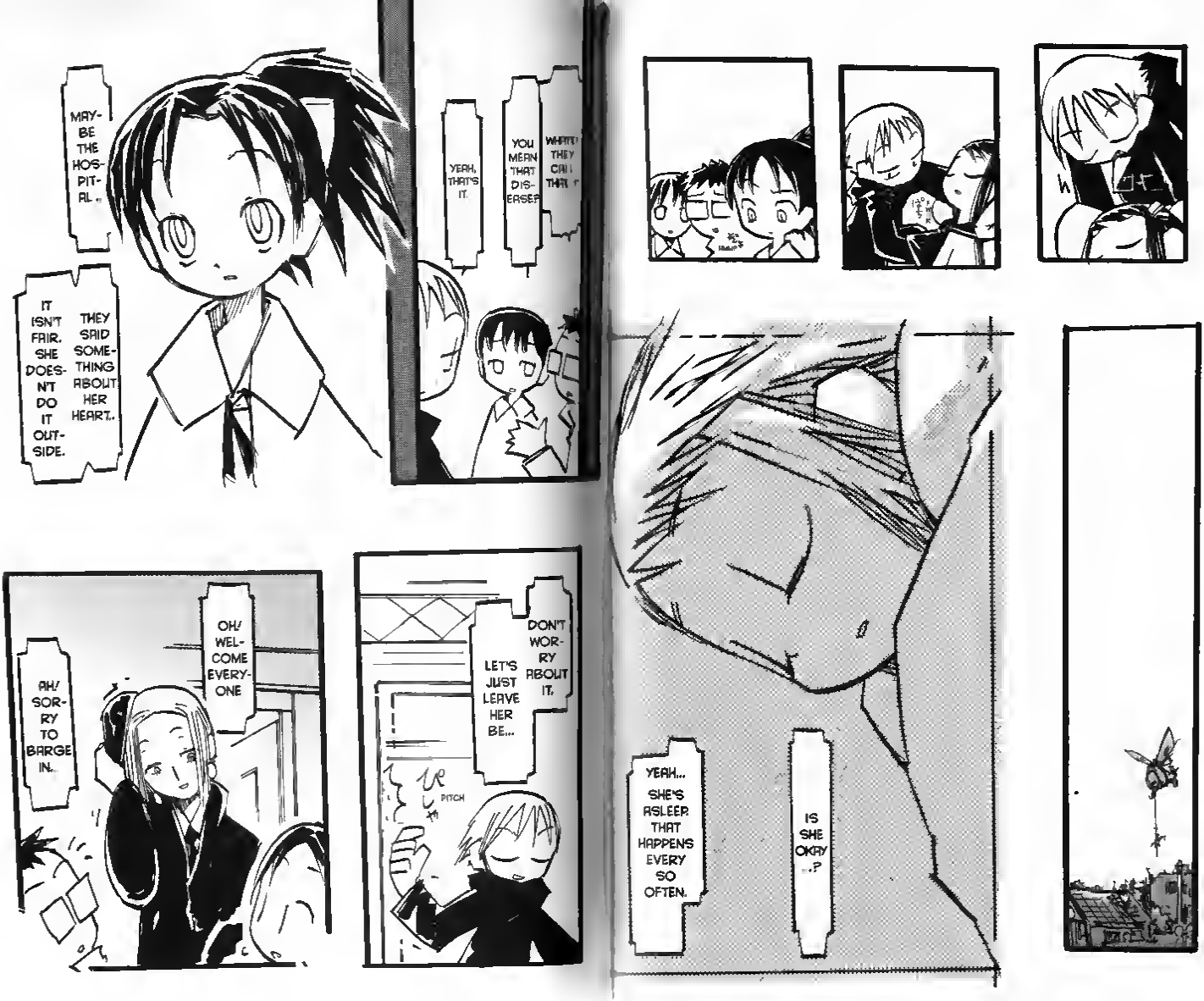



... TSK! ...


I'VE BEEN KEEPING HER IN THE CLOSET ALL THIS TIME.
IN SECRET.
EH?

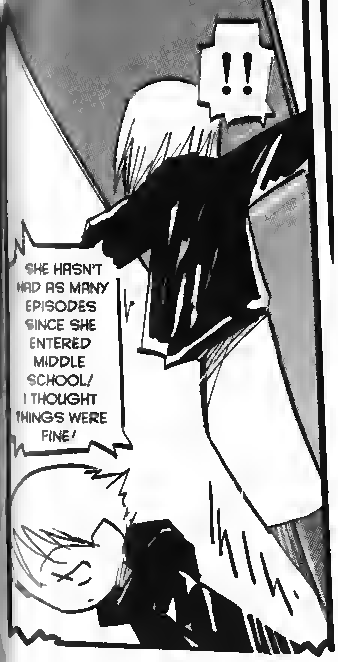

KIRIO!!!
AH.. KI...


YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH ME?
LISTEN, YOU! YOU... YOU WERE JUST...
THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT!
THAT MILITARY GUY WHO ...


MAYBE THE HOSPITAL..
IT ISN'T FAIR. SHE DOESN'T DO IT OUTSIDE.
THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT HER HEART..
YEAH, THAT'S IT.
YOU MEAN THAT DISEASE?
WHAT? THEY CAN CURE IT?
AAH!
IS SHE OKAY...?
YEAH... SHE'S ASLEEP. THAT HAPPENS EVERY SO OFTEN.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
LET'S JUST LEAVE HER BE...
PITCH
OH! WELCOME EVERYONE
AH! SORRY TO BARGE IN.

SORRY TO INTRUDE.

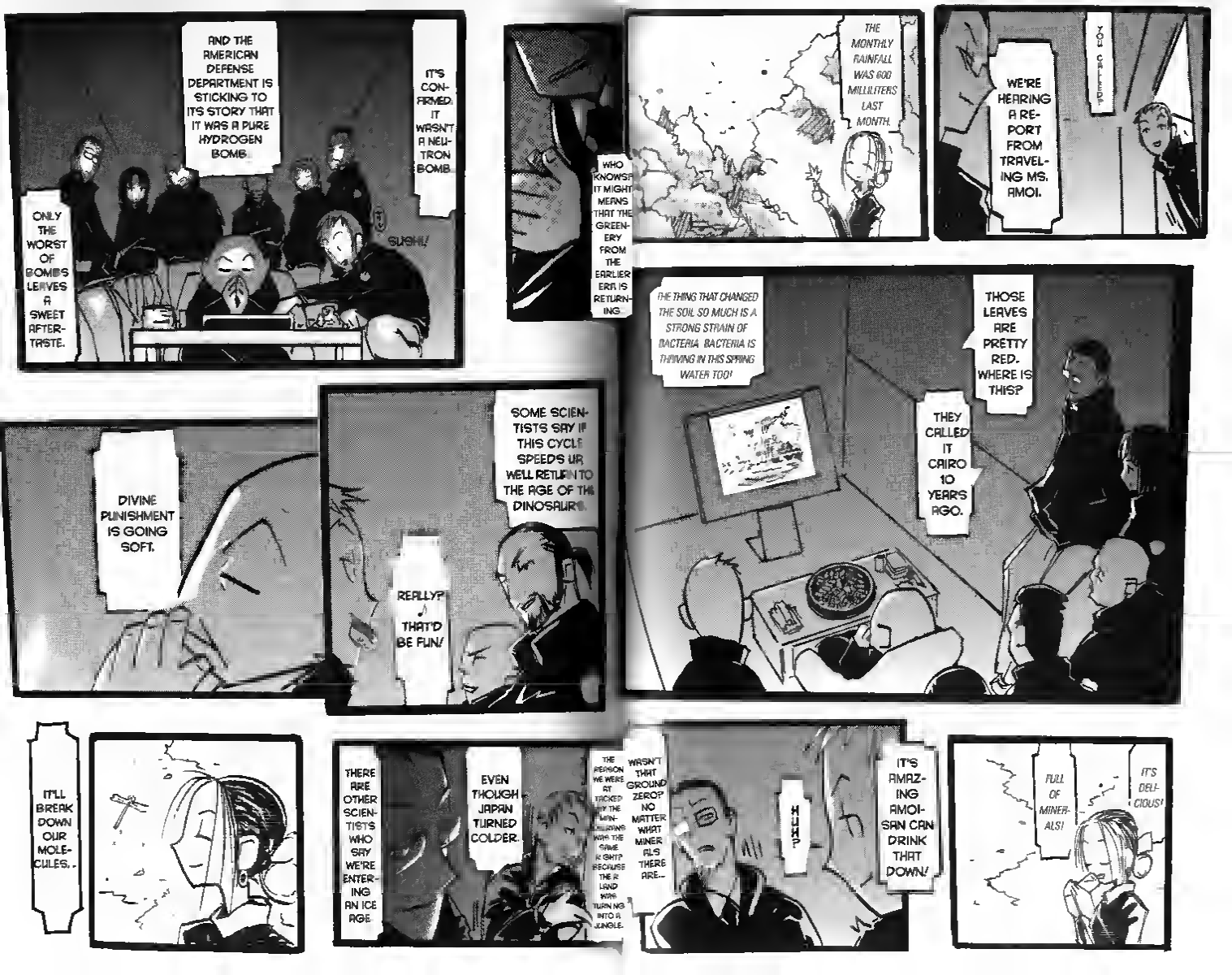
LET'S ASK HIM TO-MOR-ROW.
YEAH...


!!
SHE HASN'T HAD AS MANY EPISODES SINCE SHE ENTERED MIDDLE SCHOOL/ I THOUGHT THINGS WERE FINE!

WHERE'S KIRIKO?
SHE HAD AN AT-TACK ...
HERE ... JUST NOW

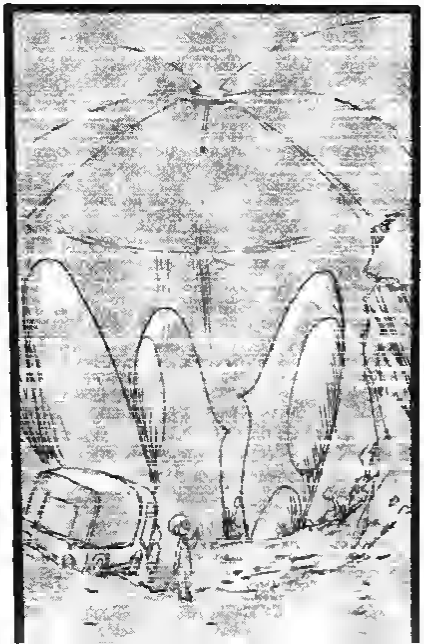
I ASKED IF YOU EXAMINED HER!!
IT JUST NOW HAP-PENED SO.
KIRIO/ DID YOU EXAMINE HER?

I KEEP TELLING YOU!!


AND THE AMERICAN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IS STICKING TO ITS STORY THAT IT WAS A PURE HYDROGEN BOMB.
IT'S CONFIRMED. IT WASN'T A NEUTRON BOMB.
ONLY THE WORST OF BOMBS LEAVES A SWEET AFTERTASTE.
SUSHI!
WHO KNOWS? IT MIGHT MEANS THAT THE GREENERY FROM THE EARLIER ERA IS RETURNING.
THE MONTHLY RAINFALL WAS 600 MILLILITERS LAST MONTH.
WE'RE HEARING A REPORT FROM TRAVELING MS. AMOI.
FOX ORTHODOX
THE THING THAT CHANGED THE SOIL SO MUCH IS A STRONG STRAIN OF BACTERIA. BACTERIA IS THRIVING IN THIS SPRING WATER TOO!
THOSE LEAVES ARE PRETTY RED. WHERE IS THIS?
THEY CALLED IT CAIRO 10 YEARS AGO.
DIVINE PUNISHMENT IS GOING SOFT.
SOME SCIENTISTS SAY IF THIS CYCLE SPEEDS UP, WE'LL RETURN TO THE AGE OF THE DINOSAURS.
REALLY? ♪ THAT'D BE FUN!
IT'LL BREAK DOWN OUR MOLECULES...
THERE ARE OTHER SCIENTISTS WHO SAY WE'RE ENTERING AN ICE AGE.
EVEN THOUGH JAPAN TURNED COLDER.
THE REASON WE WERE ATTACKED BY THE MINERALS WITH THE SAME K SHIP BECAUSE THE K LAND WAS TURNING INTO A JUNGLE.
WASN'T THAT GROUND ZERO? NO MATTER WHAT MINERALS THERE ARE...
KSSK
IT'S AMAZING AMOI-SAN CAN DRINK THAT DOWN!
FULL OF MINERALS!
IT'S DELICIOUS!

THAT'S OKAY~
AND WE ALL BE-COME FLOW-ERS...

SHALL WE DIS COVER WHAT'S IN HERE?
ALL OF THE PLACES WHERE PURE BOMBS FELL ARE LIKE THIS!

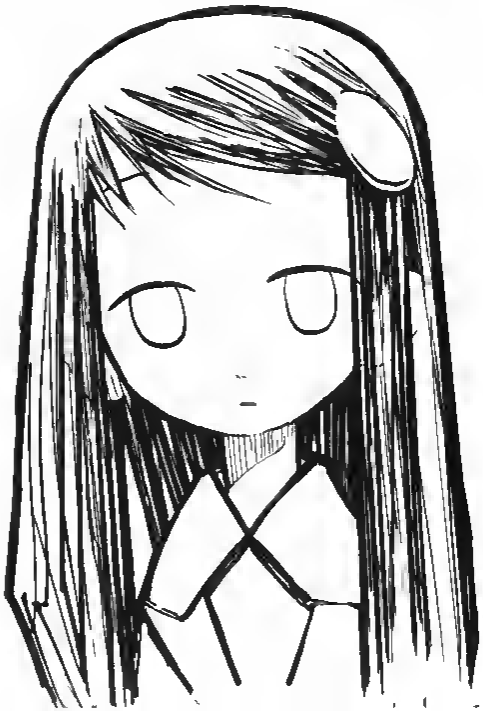


IF ONLY SHE WEREN'T AROUND

ズバ
SLASH-SWISH
ママ～!!
15 YEARS EARLIER
QUIT STICKING YOUR HEAD OUT THAT... MURDER ME IF A SCIENTIST LIKE YOU DIED!
DID YOU SEE THAT? SOME NEW ADVANCED SOLDIER!

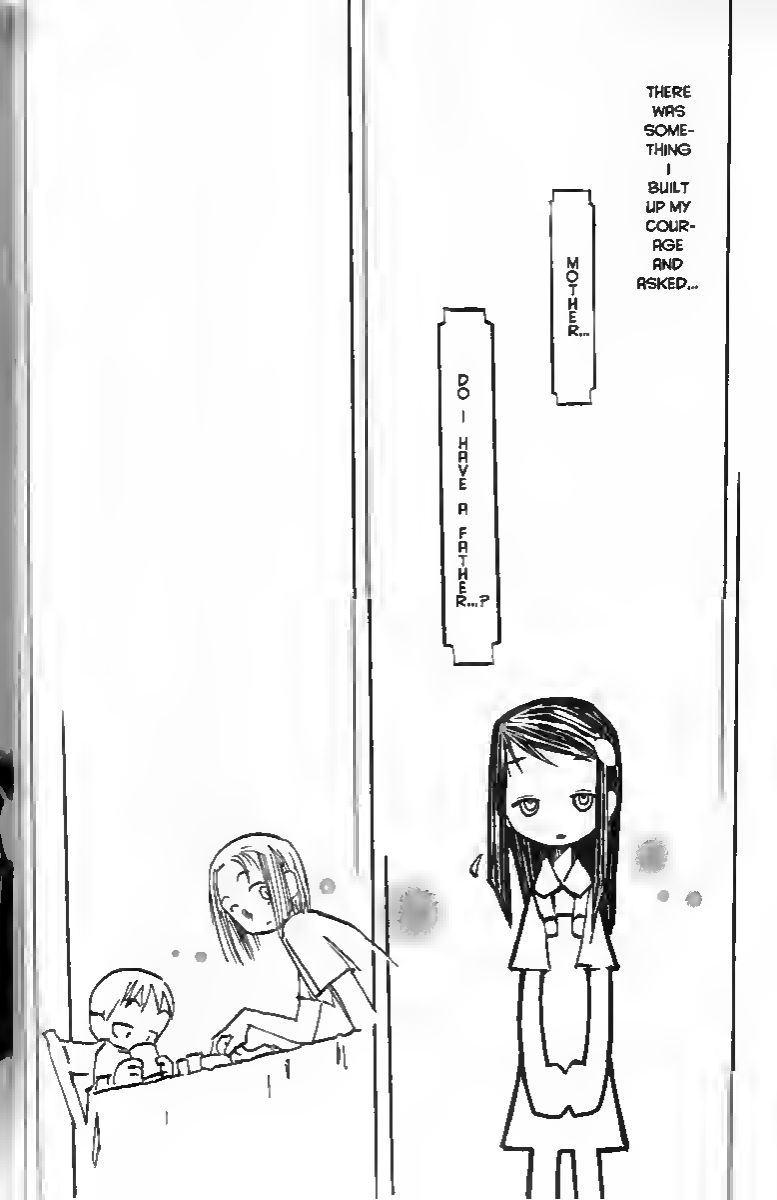
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

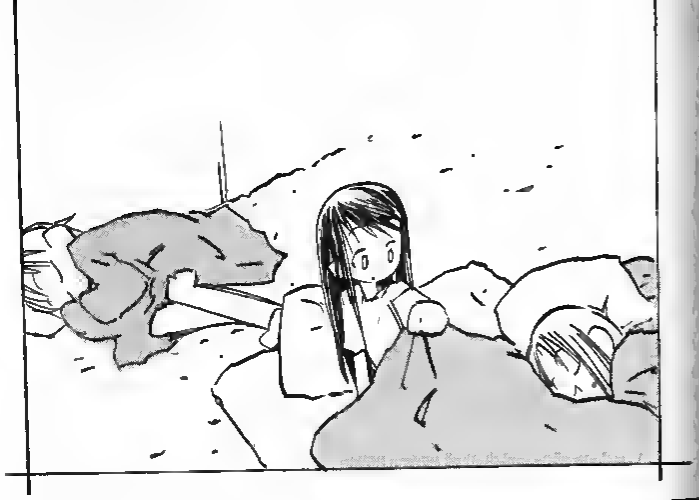
#6

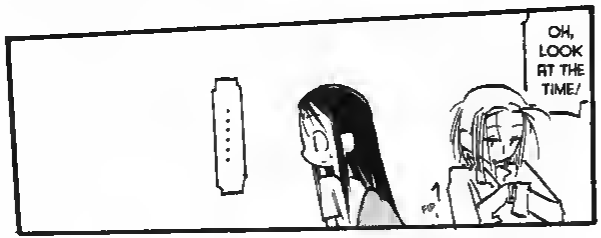


WHOA!
WHAT?
WAIT! DON'T SHOOT!
SHE'S NOT AN ENEMY! SHE'S BECOME MY FRIEND!
IT'S THAT GIRL FROM TOMUN-CHAP!
OKAY! CAN YOU TAKE OUT THE JAPA-NESE ARMY WITH THAT?
WHA...
.....
?

I'M SORRY TO HAVE KEPT THIS FROM YOU. YOU'RE A PRODUCT OF WHAT'S CALLED ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION.
WOW. SO IT'S FINALLY COME.
OH, NO! NO!
I RECEIVED SOME WONDERFUL GENES FROM THE GENE BANK!
AND I GOT SUCH A SWEET CHILD! IT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!
.....
THEN I'M A CLONE ...?


THERE WAS SOMETHING I BUILT UP MY COURAGE AND ASKED...
MOTHER...
DO I HAVE A FATHER...?





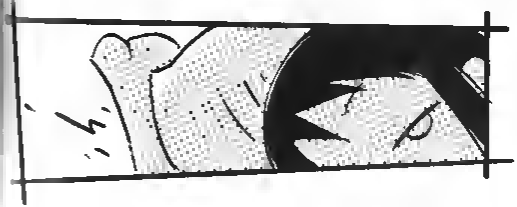
..THERE'D BE NO REASON..

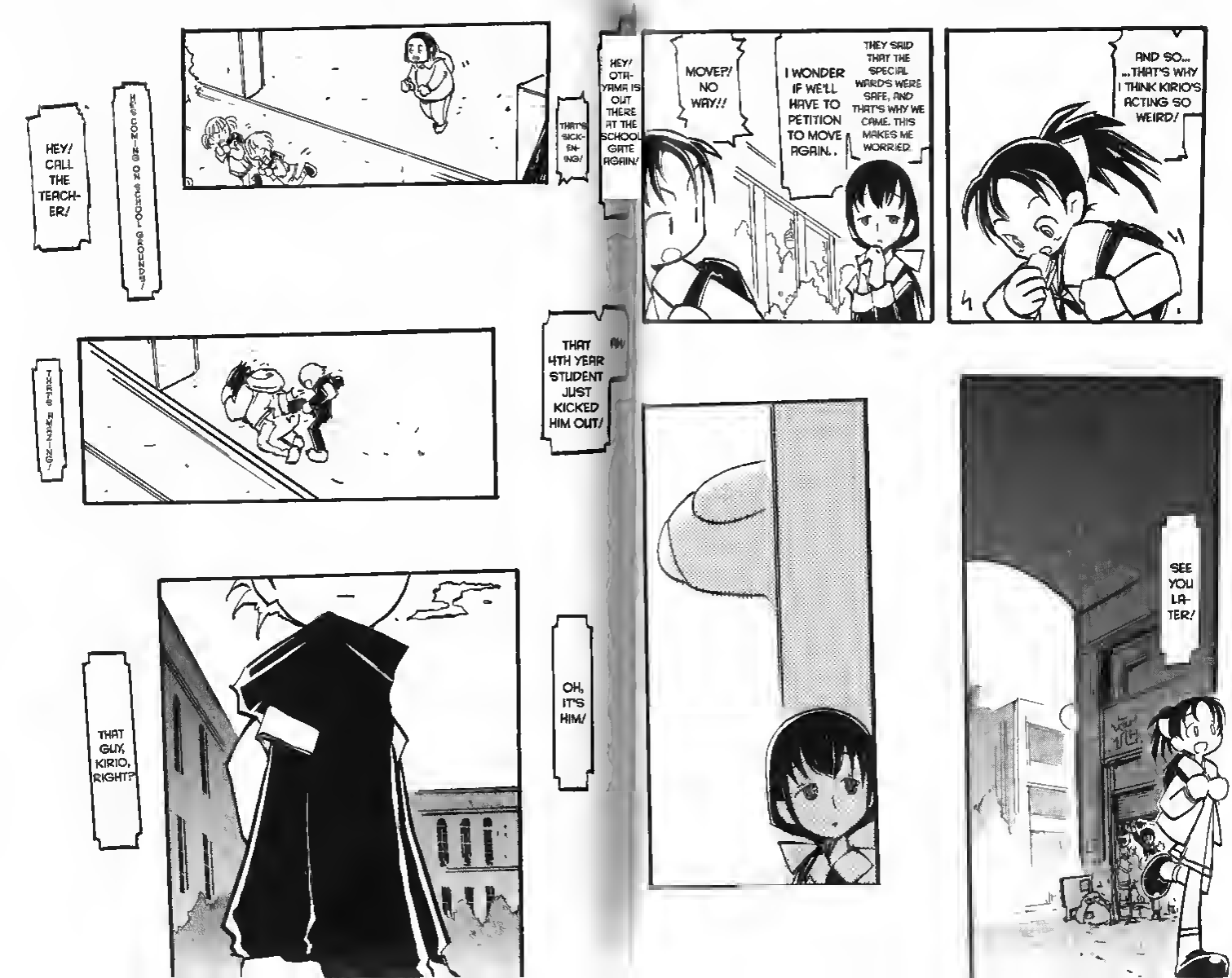
..FOR *HIM* TO EXIST!

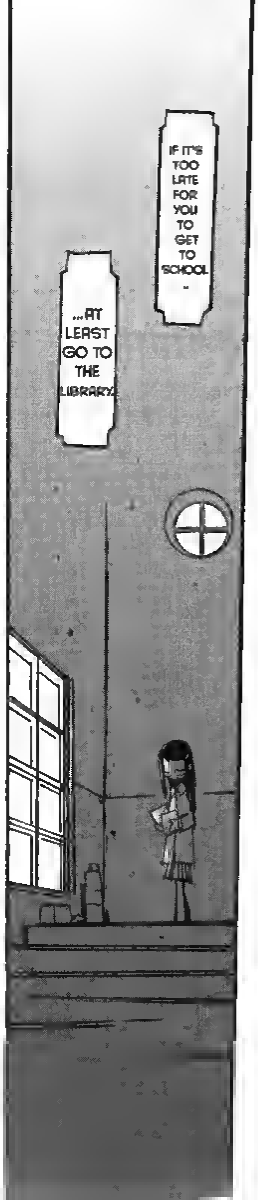
MY BODY'S WEAK.

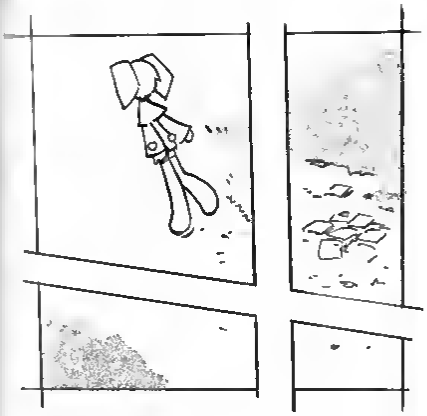
IT'S A LIE.

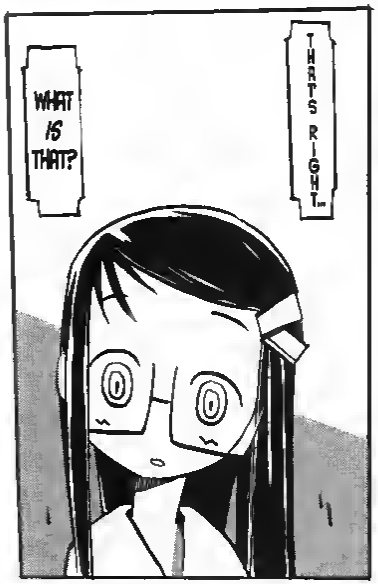
IF SHE WAS SATISFIED WITH ME...



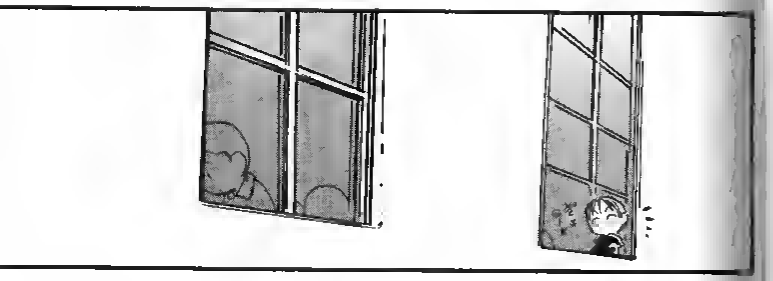

AND SO... ...THAT'S WHY I THINK KIRIO'S ACTING SO WEIRD/
THEY SAID THAT THE SPECIAL WARD'S WERE SAFE, AND THAT'S WHY WE CAME. THIS MAKES ME WORRIED.
I WONDER IF WE'LL HAVE TO PETITION TO MOVE AGAIN..
MOVE?/ NO WAY!!
SEE YOU LA-TER/
HEY/ OTA-YAMA IS OUT THERE AT THE SCHOOL GATE AGAIN/
THAT'S SICK-EN-ING/
THAT 4TH YEAR STUDENT JUST KICKED HIM OUT/
OH, IT'S HIM/
THAT GUY, KIRIO, RIGHT?
HEY/ CALL THE TEACH-ER/
THIS EVENING/
HEY/ COME BACK HERE~

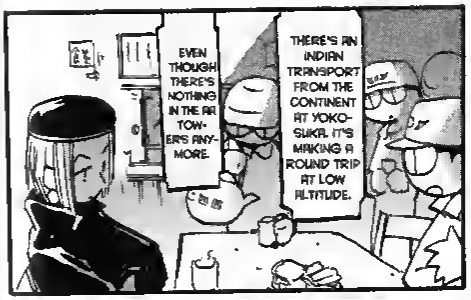

IF IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOU TO GET TO SCHOOL...
...AT LEAST GO TO THE LIBRARY.



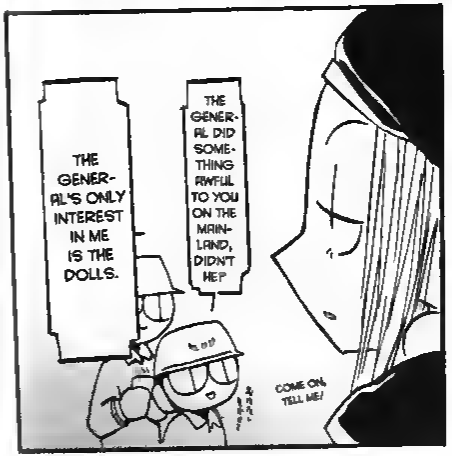

THAT'S RIGHT...
WHAT IS THAT?

WHERE'S THE MAJOR?
RIGHT NOW, IT'S BETTER THAT SHE ISN'T HERE.
WE'RE IN CHŌFU. SHE SAYS SHE'S KEEPING UP RELATIONS WITH THE LOCAL AIR FORCE.
PRIVATELY?
POLITICALLY.



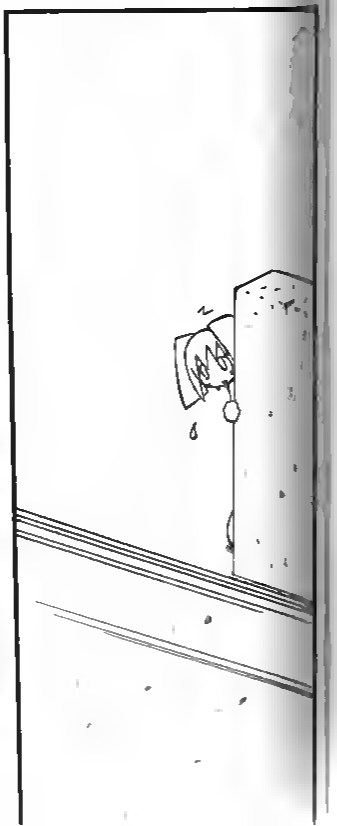

EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NOTHING IN THE AIR TOWERS ANYMORE.
THERE'S AN INDIAN TRANSPORT FROM THE CONTINENT AT YOKOSUKA. IT'S MAKING A ROUND TRIP AT LOW ALTITUDE.

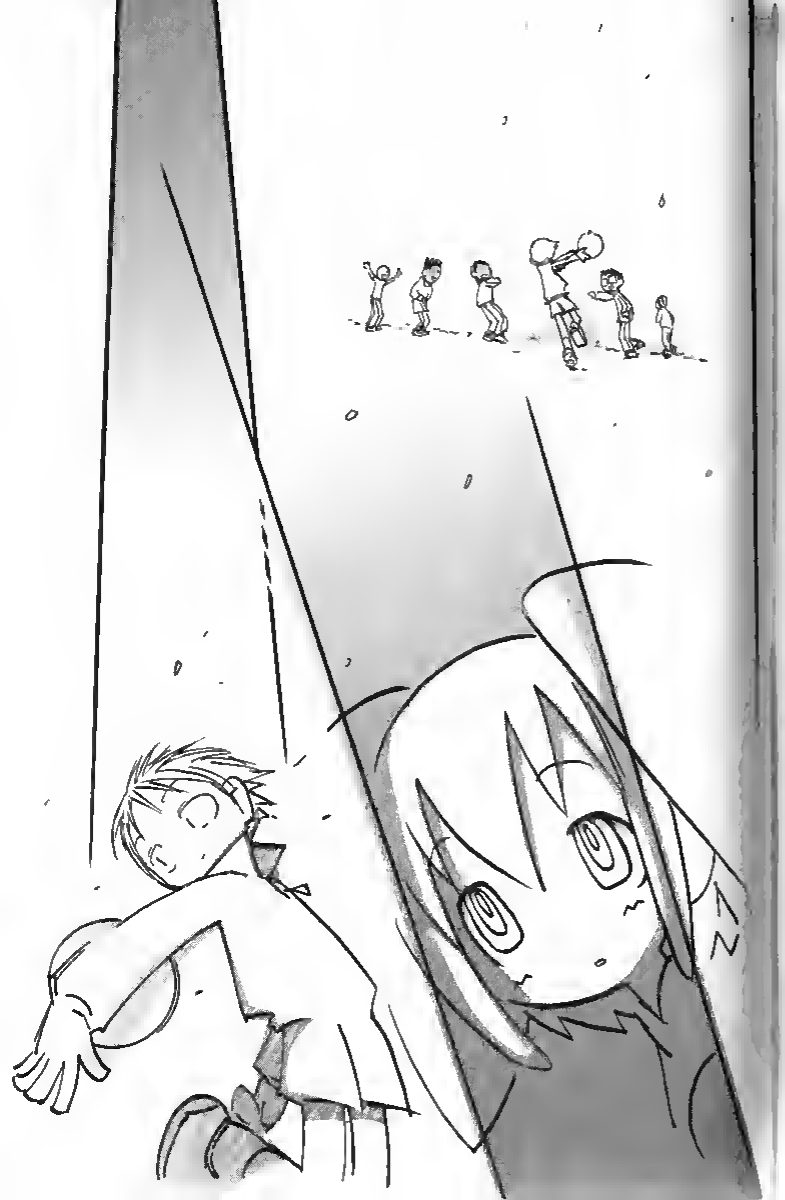
WELL, WE'RE GOING TO IGNORE ALL THIS, AND KEEP THE UPPER RANK'S AT ARM'S DISTANCE.
THEY'RE TRACING THE ALIENS, RIGHT? I THOUGHT YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH THEM TOO

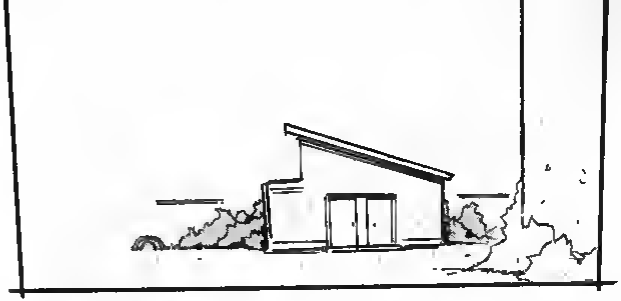

THE GENERAL'S ONLY INTEREST IN ME IS THE DOLLS.
THE GENERAL DID SOMETHING AWFUL TO YOU ON THE MAINLAND, DIDN'T HE?
COME ON, TELL ME!

A U.N. INVESTIGATION?

WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?



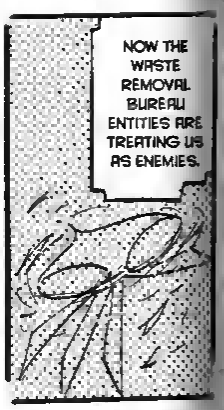


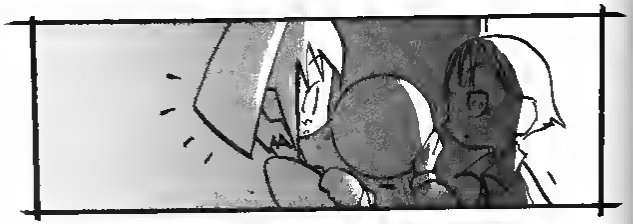


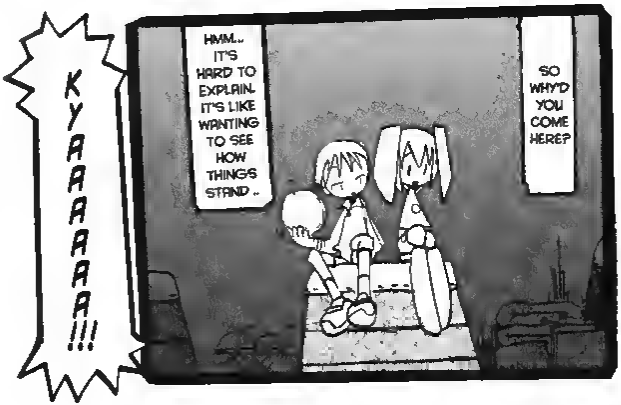
DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO WANDER AROUND?
GOOD THING THE NEXT CLASS IS GYM.

HIDE IN HERE!

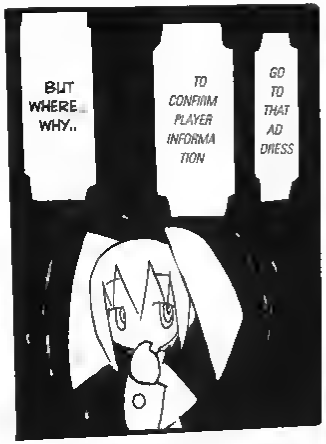
THOSE TWO-LEGGED INTELLI-GENT LIFE FORMS ARE TRYING TO RESET THE ECO-SYSTEM. THAT'S RECKLESS!


NOW THE WASTE REMOVAL BUREAU ENTITIES ARE TREATING US AS ENEMIES.




KYAAAAAA!!!
HMM.. IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN. IT'S LIKE WANTING TO SEE HOW THINGS STAND..
SO WHY'D YOU COME HERE?

FORGET.. THAT WAY YOU CAN ALWAYS START FROM THE BEGINNING.


BUT WHERE.. WHY..
TO CONFIRM PLAYER INFORMA TION
GO TO THAT AD DRESS

AHHH! OH, NO! THIS IS TOO WEIRD! MAYBE I HAVE DAMAGED MEMORY!

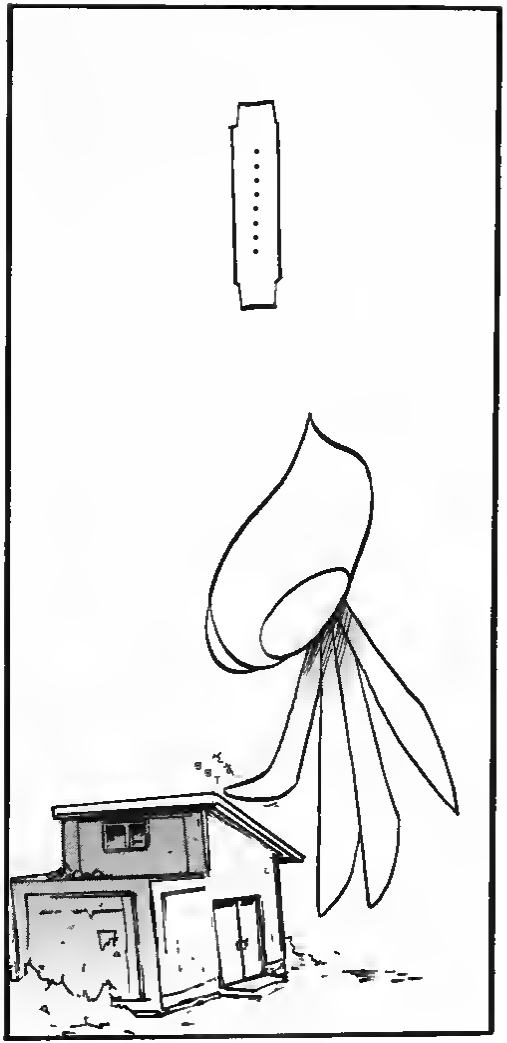
CONNECT ING TO THAT NERVOUS SYSTEM, I HAVE MOVE-MENTS BEYOND MY SPECS
BUT I GET THE FEELING THE ONE I SHOULD BE CONNECTING WITH IS THE OLDER SISTER.

USUMI HAS NO SENSE OF BALANCE.
HE'S GOING STRAIGHT OFF TO GET THE ULTIMATE WEAPON.
I'M CRI-LING THE TEACH-ER!

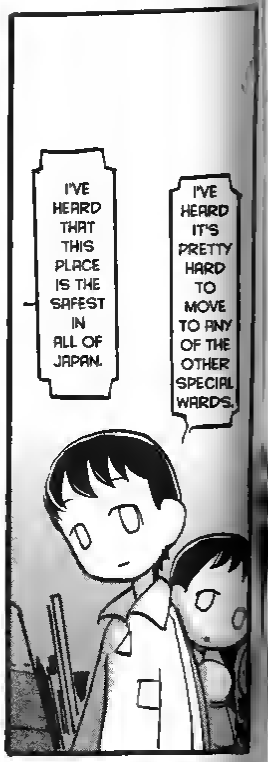
IT'S AGAINST THE RULES TO HIT ME IN THE FACE!
IT WAS-N'T ON PUR-POSE.

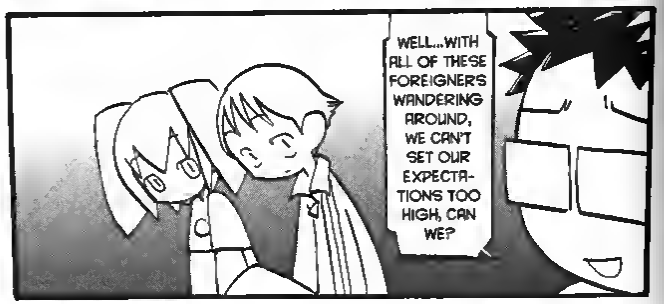
HE MEANS ME?
YOU...
...UM...
I'M...
...CALLED
Q.KO!
THAT'S A WEIRD NAME.
EH? WHO'S THAT?
KYAA!!
IT'S LOOKING THIS WAY!
UWAA!
IT'S COMING TOWARD US!!
WAAAAH!!
YOU KNOW! IT'S THAT OCTOPUS.. OR WHATEVER!!
IT'S THAT MONSTER FROM THE OTHER DAY!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

#7

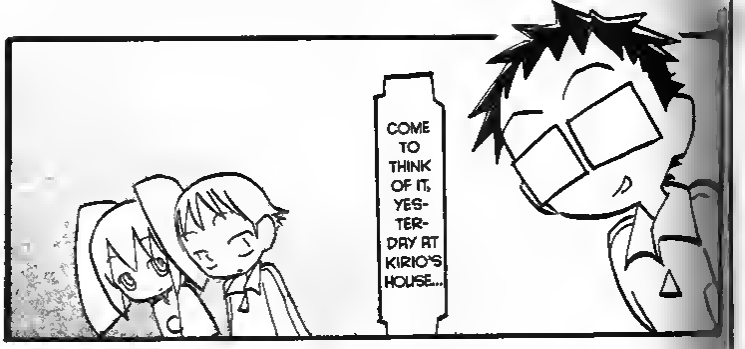


THINGS HAVE REALLY CALMED DOWN WITH THIS CHIT-CHAT.
MY PARENTS SAY THAT WE'RE ALL ELITE.
THE CHECK-POINTS ARE PRETTY STRICT. THEY DON'T ALLOW ANYBODY UNUSUAL TO PASS.
DON'T YOU JUST MEAN RICH?
BUT IN EXCHANGE WE GET PEOPLE LIKE MICHI OTAYEMA!


I'VE HEARD THAT THIS PLACE IS THE SAFEST IN ALL OF JAPAN.
I'VE HEARD IT'S PRETTY HARD TO MOVE TO ANY OF THE OTHER SPECIAL WARDS.

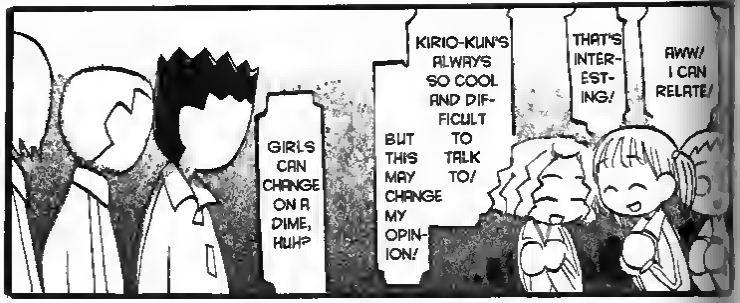

WELL...WITH ALL OF THESE FOREIGNERS WANDERING AROUND, WE CAN'T SET OUR EXPECTA-TIONS TOO HIGH, CAN WE?

YOU TOO, SHIINO-CHAN? MY MOTHER SAID THE SAME THING./
IT'S BECAUSE THESE THINGS HAPPEN THAT MAMA WANTS TO MOVE./
AND SUDDENLY MY BROTHER IS HOLED UP IN HIS ROOM.

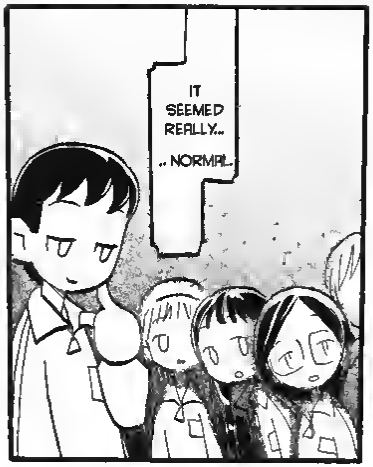

COME TO THINK OF IT, YES-TER-DAY AT KIRIO'S HOUSE...

...HIS MOM REALLY TOLD HIM OFF!
WOW!

.....


GIRLS CAN CHANGE ON A DIME, HUH?
BUT THIS MAY CHANGE MY OPINION/
KIRIO-KUN'S ALWAYS SO COOL AND DIFFICULT TO TALK TO/
THAT'S INTERESTING/
AWW/ I CAN RELATE/

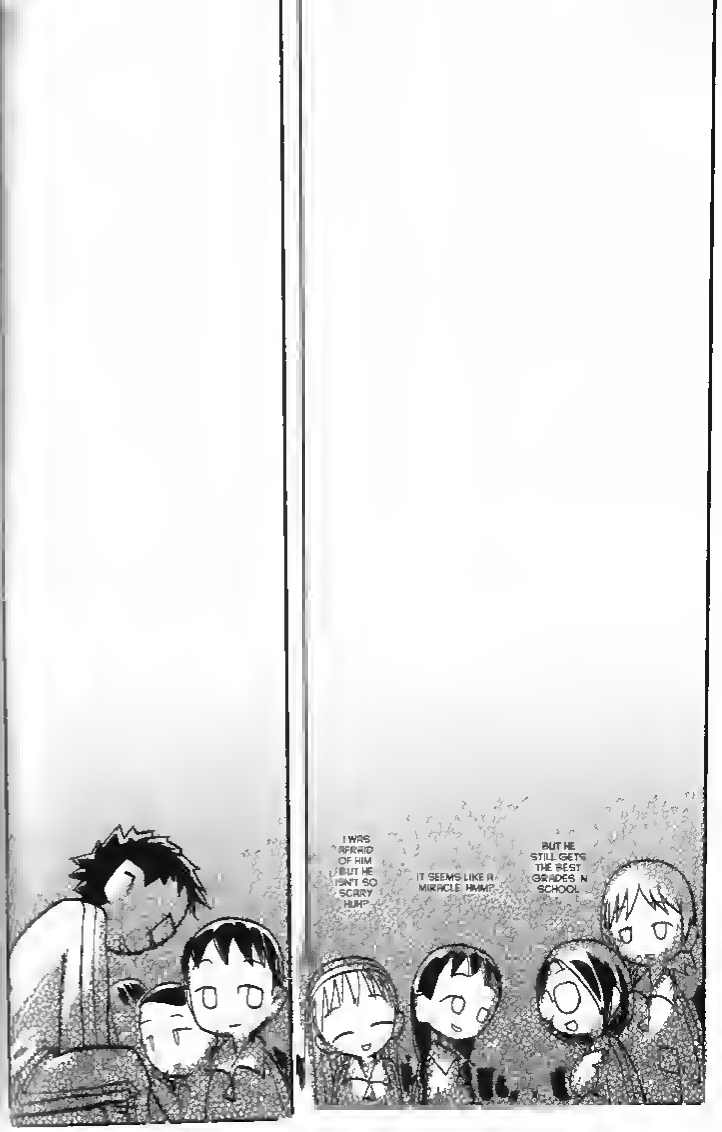
OH.. NOW THAT'S NEWS.
IT IS? WHY IS IT NEWS?


IT SEEMED REALLY... .. NORMAL.

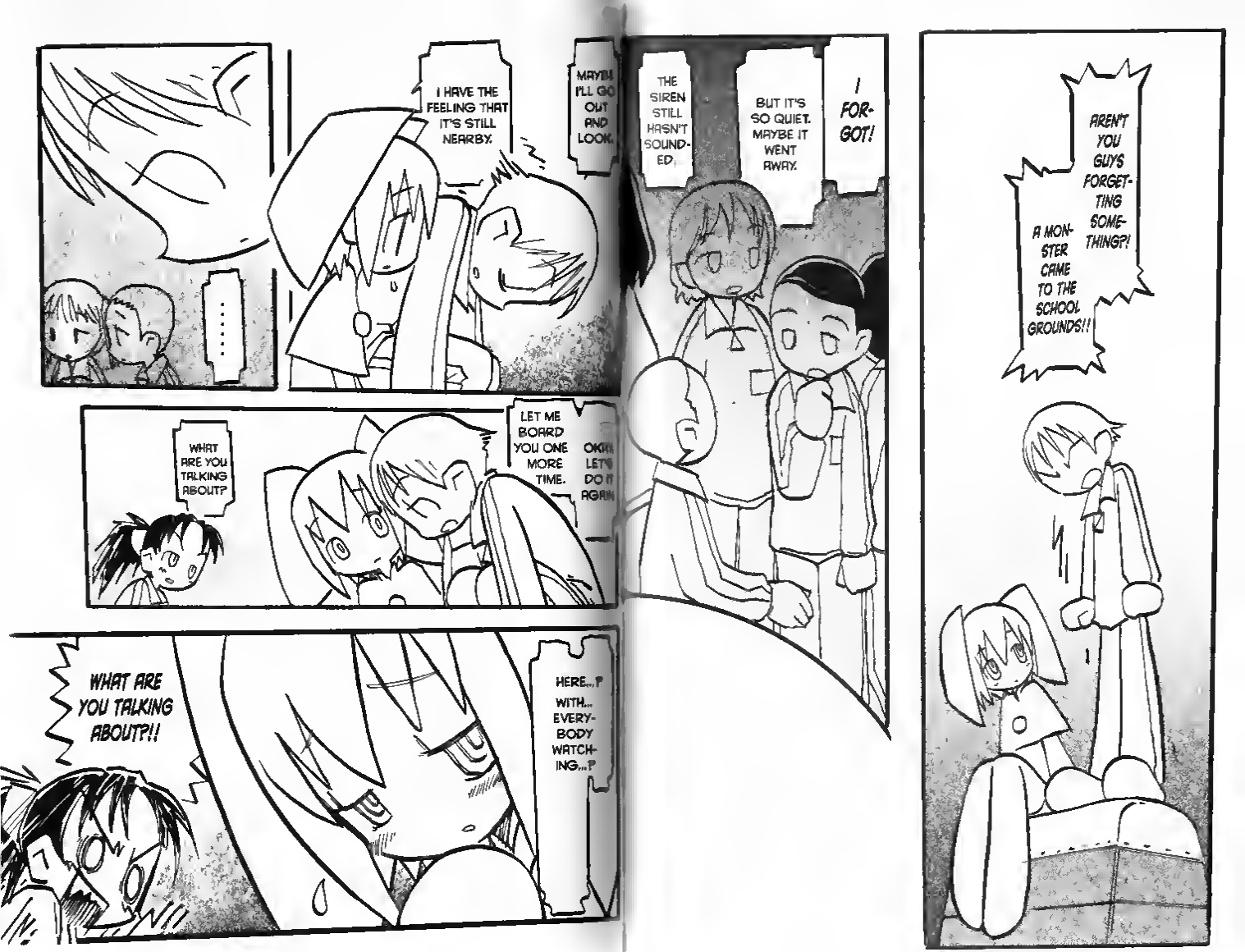
WHAT KIND OF TALK IS THAT?
O-OH, SHUT UP/
COME ON/ DON'T SAY ANY MORE, OKAY?

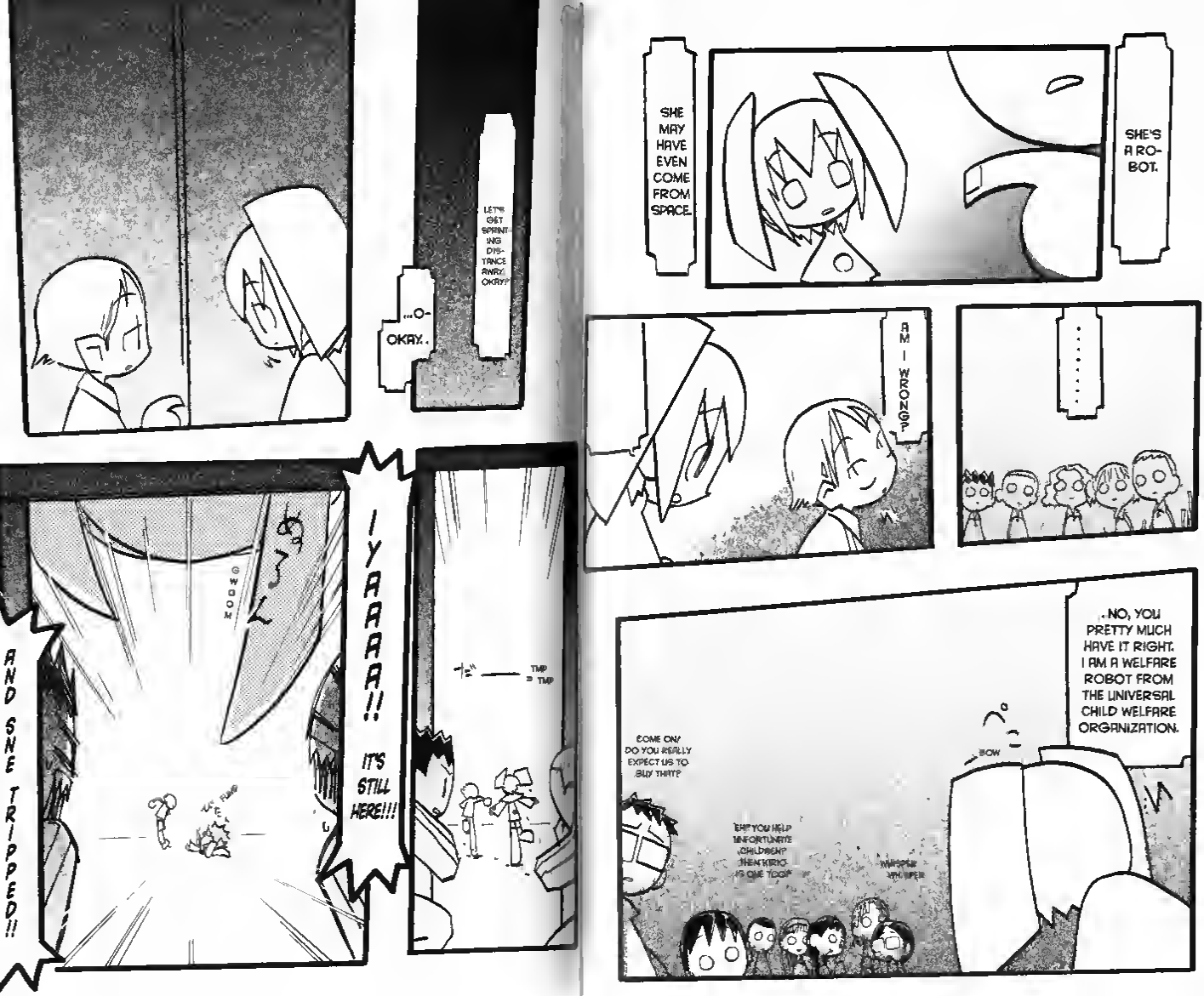
HIS MOM ALWAYS SEEMS SO STRONG, BUT I GUESS IT'S ALL AN ACT/

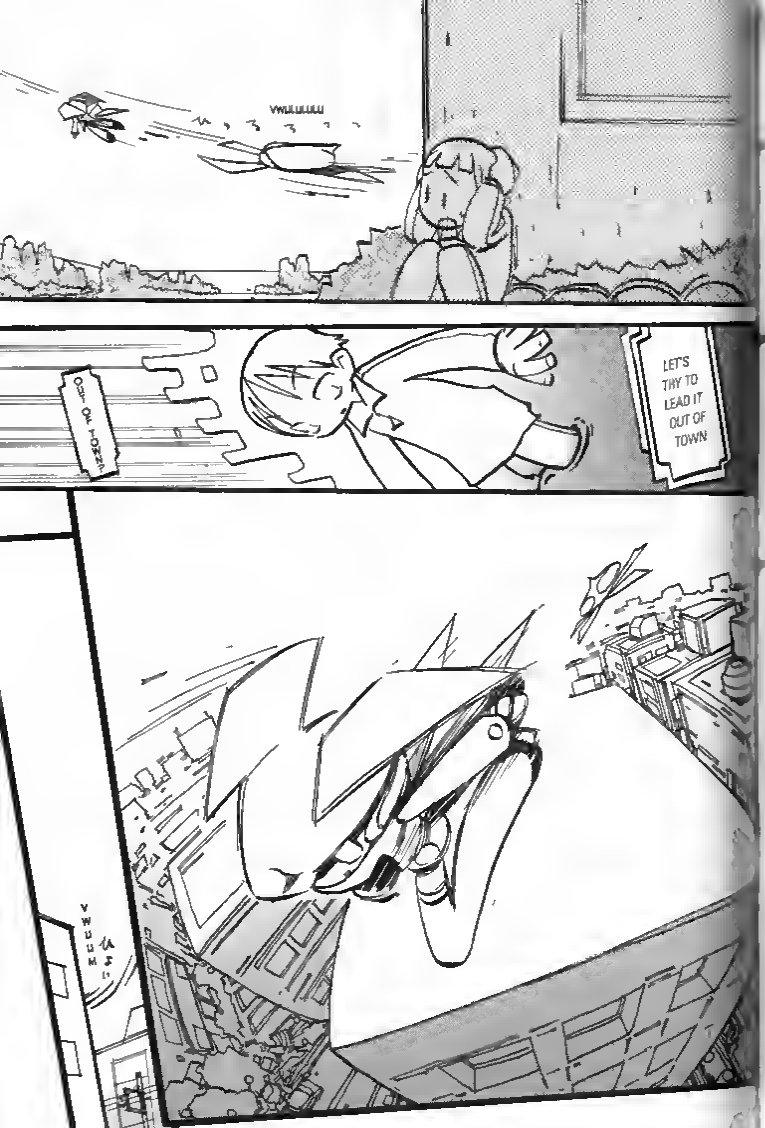
WHO CARES A-BOUT THAT ANY-WAY?
..... WH-

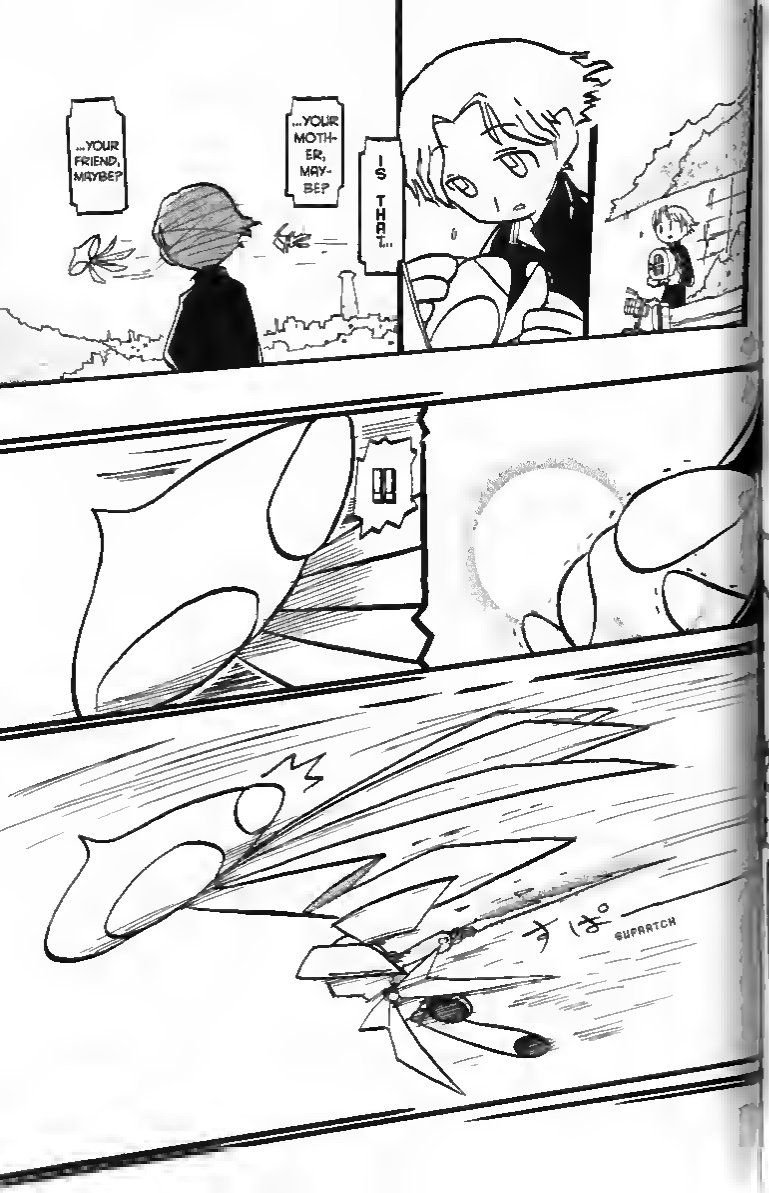

I WAS AFRAID OF HIM BUT HE ISN'T SO SCARY HUH?
IT SEEMS LIKE A MIRACLE HMM?
BUT HE STILL GETS THE BEST GRADES IN SCHOOL

I KNEW IT ALL ALONG!

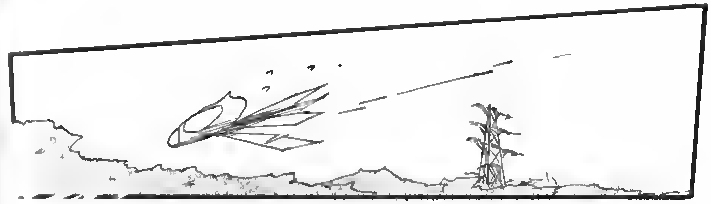

I FORGOT!
BUT IT'S SO QUIET. MAYBE IT WENT AWAY.
THE SIREN STILL HASN'T SOUNDED.
AREN'T YOU GUYS FORGETTING SOMETHING?!
A MONSTER CAME TO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS!!
MAYBE I'LL GO OUT AND LOOK.
I HAVE THE FEELING THAT IT'S STILL NEARBY.
.....
LET ME BOARD YOU ONE MORE TIME.
OKAY! LET'S DO IT AGAIN
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HERE...? WITH... EVERYBODY WATCHING...?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!!

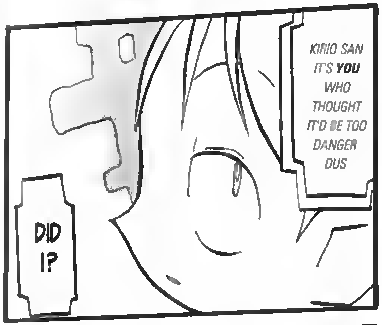

SHE'S A RO-BOT.
SHE MAY HAVE EVEN COME FROM SPACE.
AM I WRONG?
. . . . . .
. NO, YOU PRETTY MUCH HAVE IT RIGHT. I AM A WELFARE ROBOT FROM THE UNIVERSAL CHILD WELFARE ORGANIZATION.
BOW
COME ON! DO YOU REALLY EXPECT US TO BUY THAT?
SHE'S GET SPRINTING DISTANCE AWAY, OKAY?
...O-OKAY.
IYAAAA!! IT'S STILL HERE!!!
AND SHE TRIPPED!!
GWOOM
TMP = TMP

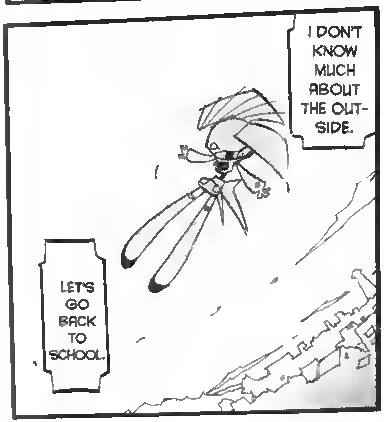

VWUUUUU
LET'S TRY TO LEAD IT OUT OF TOWN
SHERA

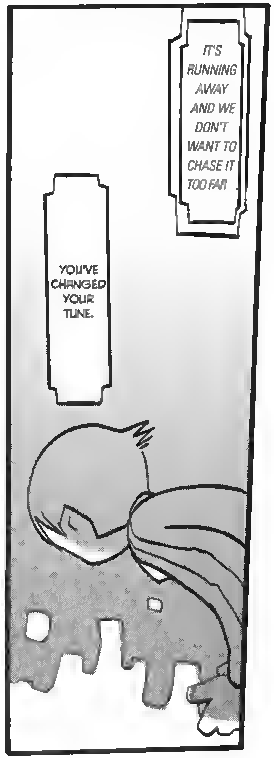

...YOUR FRIEND, MAYBE?
...YOUR MOTHER, MAYBE?
IS THAT...
!!
SUPRATCH

THIS IS REALLY GROSS!
GUSH
DO YOU WANT A HAND HOLD?
HMM...



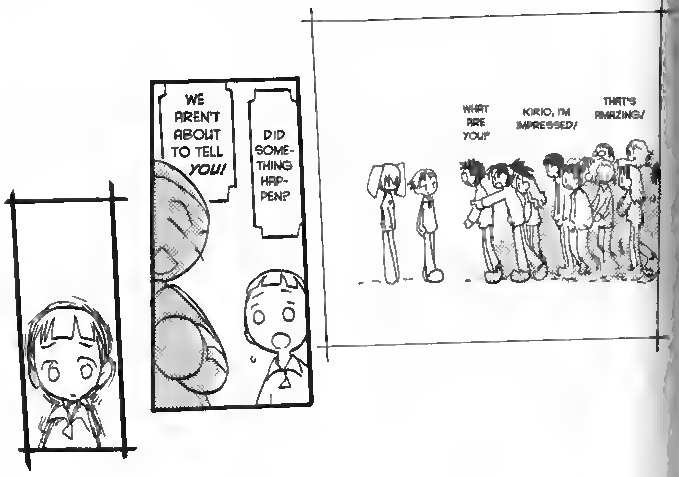

KIRIO SAN IT'S YOU WHO THOUGHT IT'D BE TOO DANGER OUS
DID IP


I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE OUT-SIDE.
LET'S GO BACK TO SCHOOL.

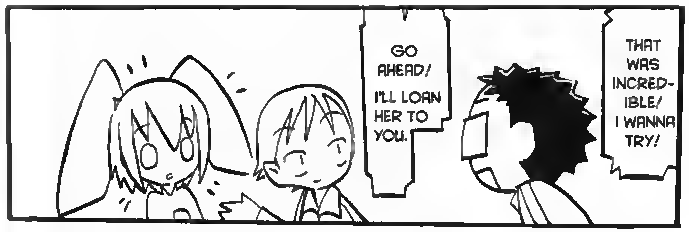

IT'S RUNNING AWAY AND WE DON'T WANT TO CHASE IT TOO FAR
YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR TUNE.

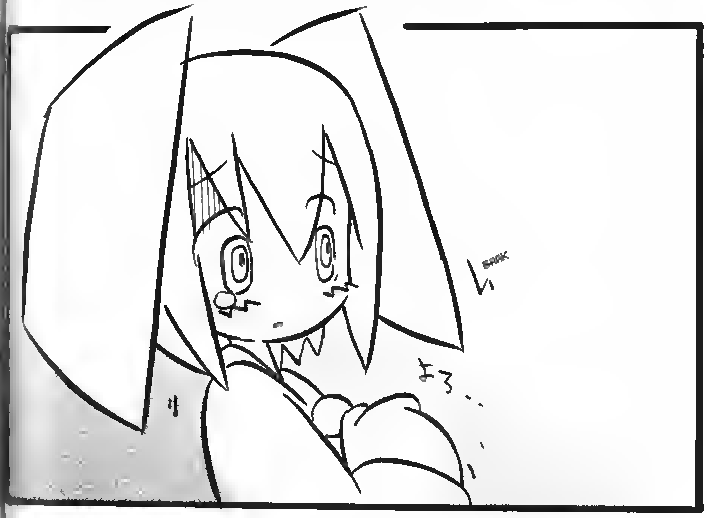
IN ANY CASE, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR US TO BE DIS-PATCHED.
I HATE IT WHEN THAT HAP-PENS.
YEAH, BUT BOTH VAN-ISHED PRET-TY QUICK-LY.
THERE'S ANOTH-ER DIS-TUR-BANCE IN THE 13 SPECIAL WARDS ...P

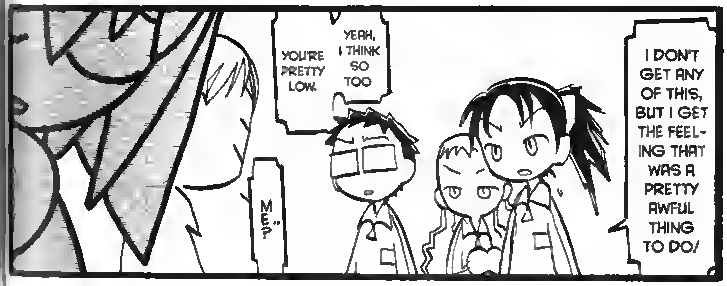
WHAT?


WE AREN'T ABOUT TO TELL YOU!
DID SOME-THING HAP-PEN?
WHAT ARE YOU?
KIRIO, I'M IMPRESSED!
THAT'S AMAZING!

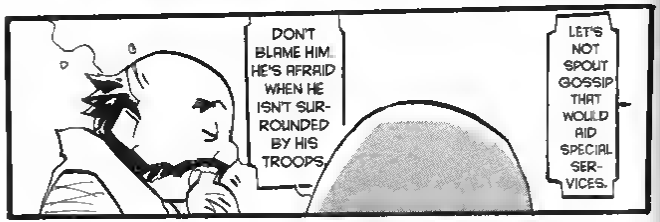
#8

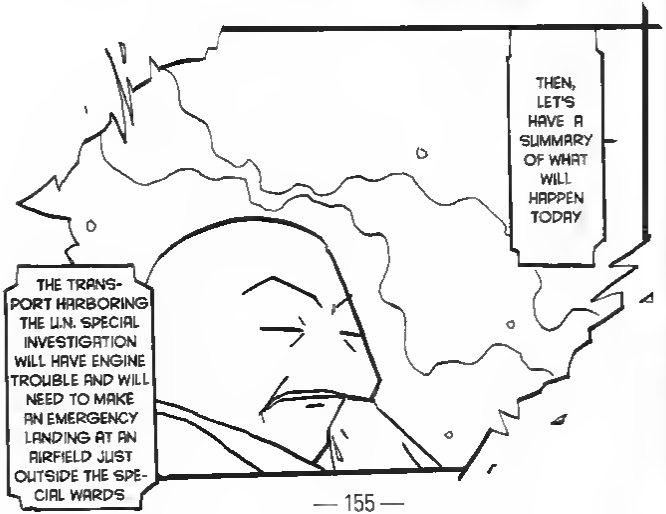

GO AHEAD/ I'LL LOAN HER TO YOU.
THAT WAS INCRED-IBLE/ I WANNA TRY!

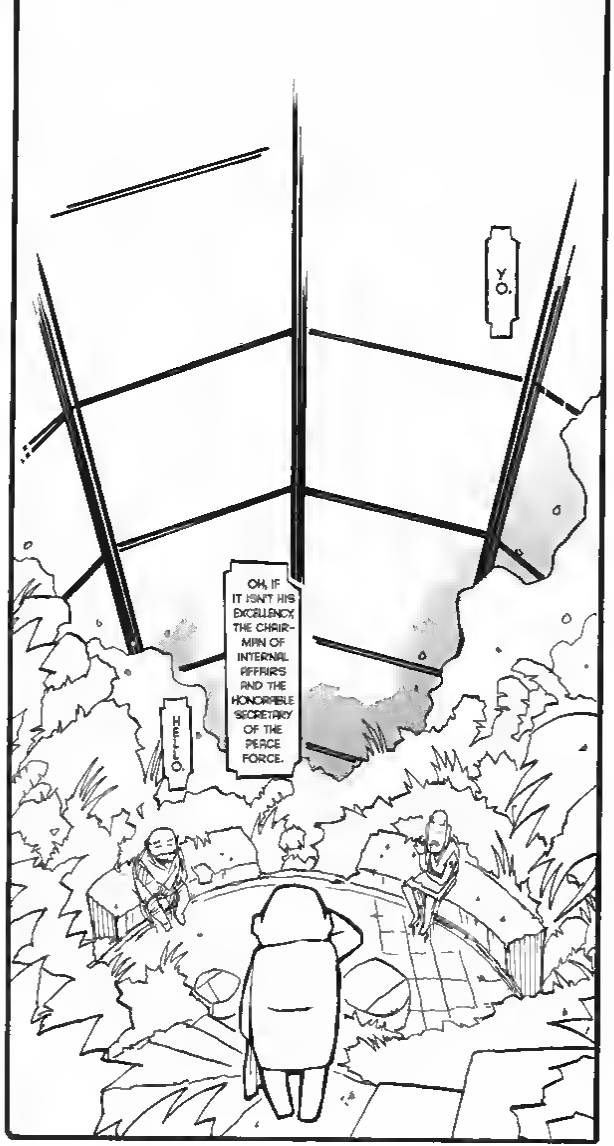

SHAK


M-EP.
YOU'RE PRETTY LOW.
YEAH, I THINK SO TOO
I DON'T GET ANY OF THIS, BUT I GET THE FEEL-ING THAT WAS A PRETTY AWFUL THING TO DO/

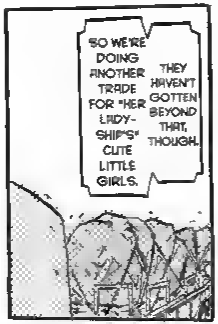
I'LL GIVE YOU A CIVIL SERVANT JOB IF YOU COME WORK FOR ME.
I WAS THERE AT THE PURGE, SO I'M AFRAID I HAVEN'T THE COURAGE TO DON THAT CROWN


DON'T BLAME HIM. HE'S AFRAID WHEN HE ISN'T SURROUNDED BY HIS TROOPS.
LET'S NOT SPOUT GOSSIP THAT WOULD AID SPECIAL SERVICES.

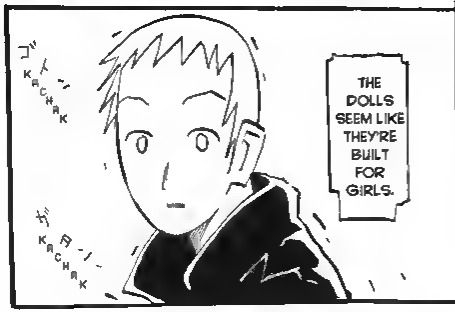

THEN, LET'S HAVE A SUMMARY OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN TODAY
THE TRANSPORT HARBORING THE U.N. SPECIAL INVESTIGATION WILL HAVE ENGINE TROUBLE AND WILL NEED TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AT AN AIRFIELD JUST OUTSIDE THE SPECIAL WARDS.


Y.O.
OH, IF IT ISN'T HIS EXCELLENCY, THE CHAIRMAN OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF THE PEACE FORCE.
Hee

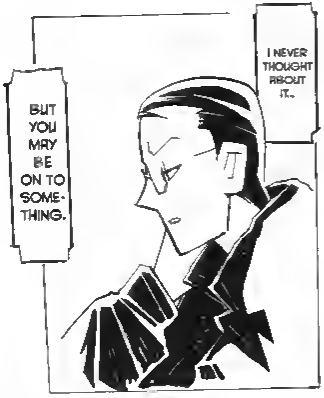
KACHAK KACHAK
IF THAT'S TRUE— —THEN THE FRENCHIES HAVE A MUCH BETTER JOB THAN THE MAJOR DOES


SO WE'RE DOING ANOTHER TRADE FOR "HER LADY-SHIP'S" CUTE LITTLE GIRLS.
THEY HAVEN'T GOTTEN BEYOND THAT, THOUGH.

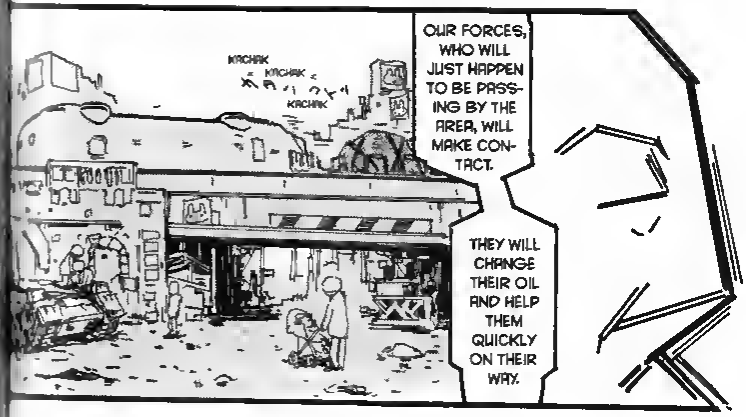
I WOULDN'T SAY IT CONTROLS THEM, BUT IT MAKES THEM VERY DOCILE.
REALLY?

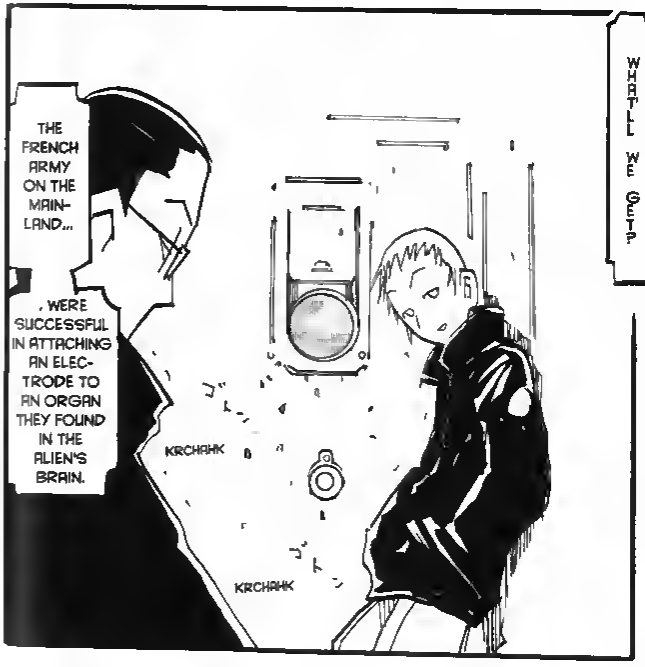

KACHAK KACHAK
THE DOLLS SEEM LIKE THEY'RE BUILT FOR GIRLS.

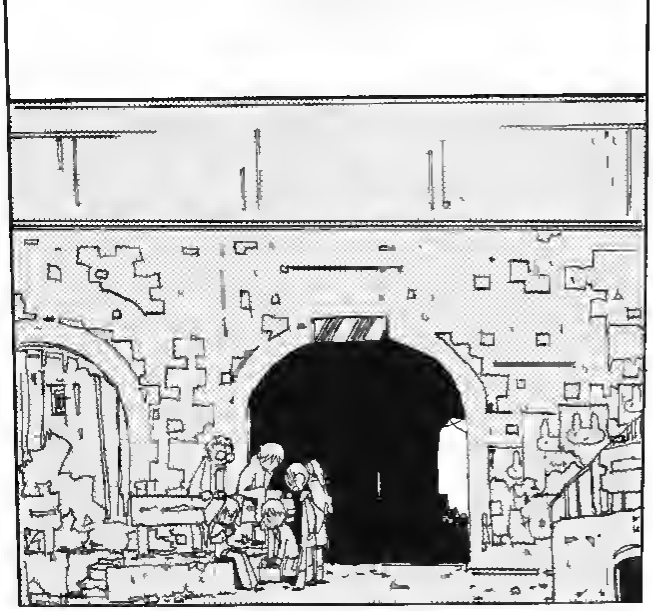
KACHAK
HUH? WHY'S THAT?
IF I GOTTA "STEP OUT" WITH ONE, I'D RATHER IT WERE THE ALIENS.
KACHAK

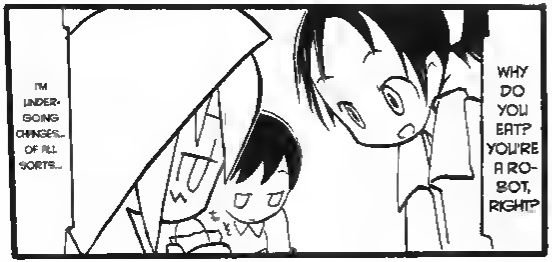

BUT YOU MAY BE ON TO SOMETHING.
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

HM.


KACHAK KACHAK KACHAK
OUR FORCES, WHO WILL JUST HAPPEN TO BE PASSING BY THE AREA, WILL MAKE CONTACT.
THEY WILL CHANGE THEIR OIL AND HELP THEM QUICKLY ON THEIR WAY.


HUH? WHAT'LL WE GET?
THE FRENCH ARMY ON THE MAINLAND...
...WERE SUCCESSFUL IN ATTACHING AN ELECTRODE TO AN ORGAN THEY FOUND IN THE ALIEN'S BRAIN.
KRCHAHK
KRCHAHK



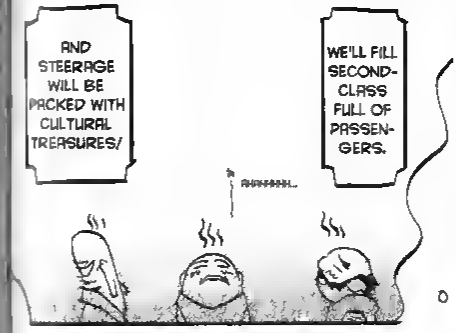

I'M UNDERGOING CHANGES... OF ALL SORTS...
WHY DO YOU EAT? YOU'RE A ROBOT, RIGHT?

OPEN YOUR MOUTH A SECOND?

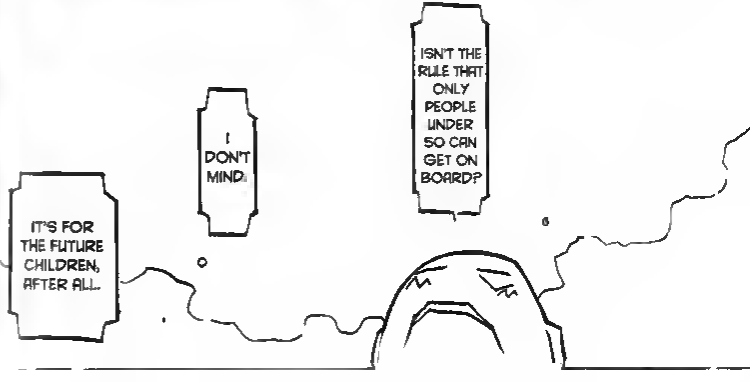
YOU WANT THEM FOR THE "NOAH'S ARK" THING YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT?
YES. WE'VE LOST TOO MANY OF THE USEFUL JAPANESE

THEY THINK OF US AS NOTHING MORE THAN A BOMBING RANGE. I'LL SHOW THEM.
OH/ YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING WITH THE MASONS OR SOMEONE?

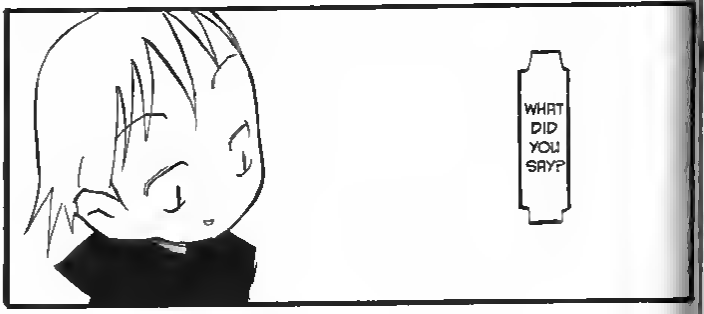
IT CAN ONLY MEAN THAT YOU'RE LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR SOME SECRET EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION TO MAKE INROADS HERE.
THAT'S CARELESS.


AND STEERAGE WILL BE PACKED WITH CULTURAL TREASURES/
WE'LL FILL SECOND-CLASS FULL OF PASSENGERS.
AHHHHH...

LET'S DECIDE ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR IT OURSELVES.

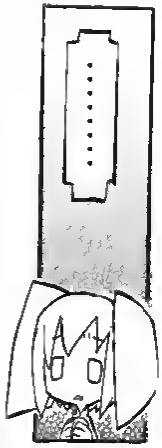

ISN'T THE RULE THAT ONLY PEOPLE UNDER 50 CAN GET ON BOARD?
I DON'T MIND.
IT'S FOR THE FUTURE CHILDREN, AFTER ALL.

ONLY WHEN YOUR FRIENDS ARE AROUND

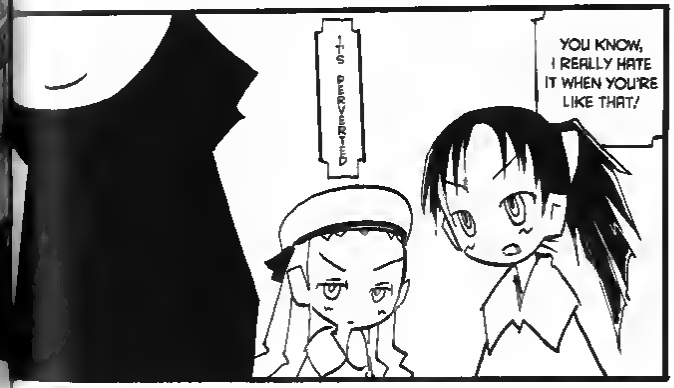

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

KACHAK
KACHAK

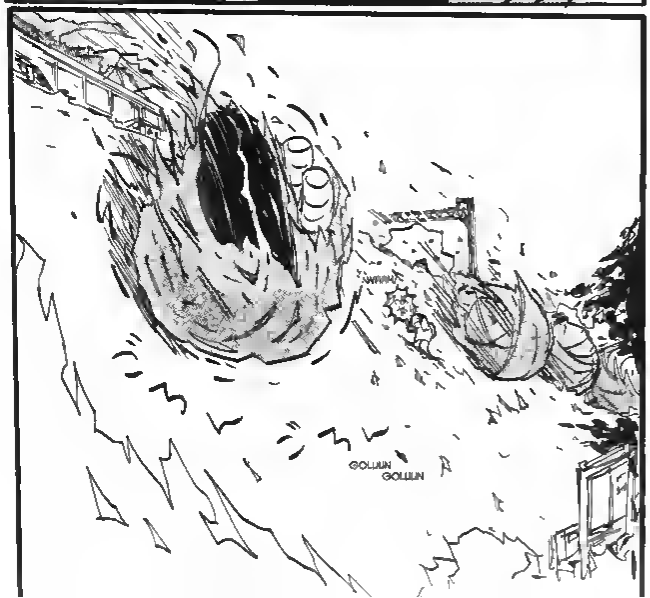
COME ON.


.....

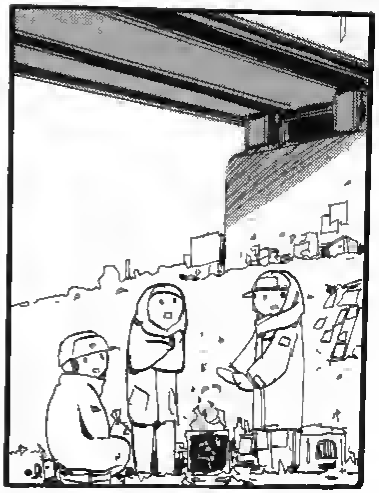
LET'S SEE IF YOU GOT A THROAT -DONG


-TS DRENCHED
YOU KNOW, I REALLY HATE IT WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THAT!

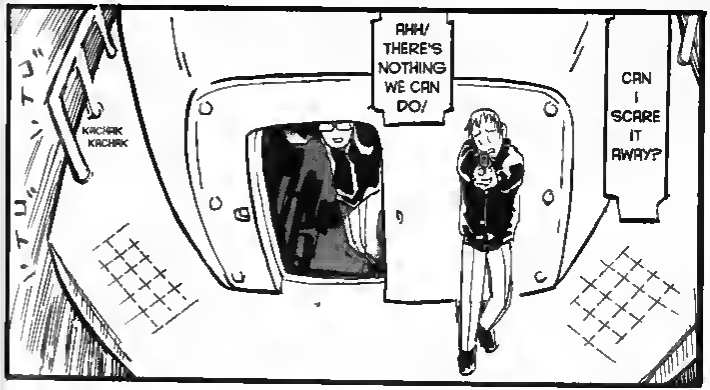
BWAKK


GOLUUN
GOLUUN

IT'S GOING TO MAKE A CRASH LANDING ON THE EMBANKMENT BEYOND THE BRIDGE!
A FRENCH TRANSPORT IS BEING ATTACKED BY ALIENS!
NO! IF WE GO THERE NOW, OUR CARGO WILL GET ATTACKED—

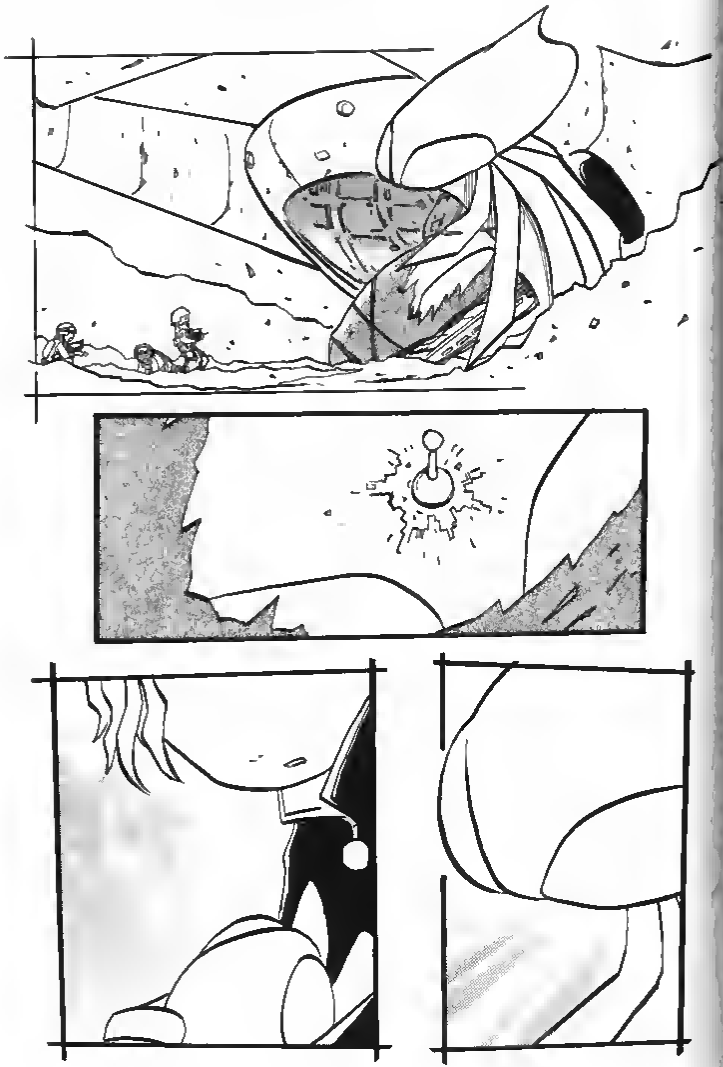


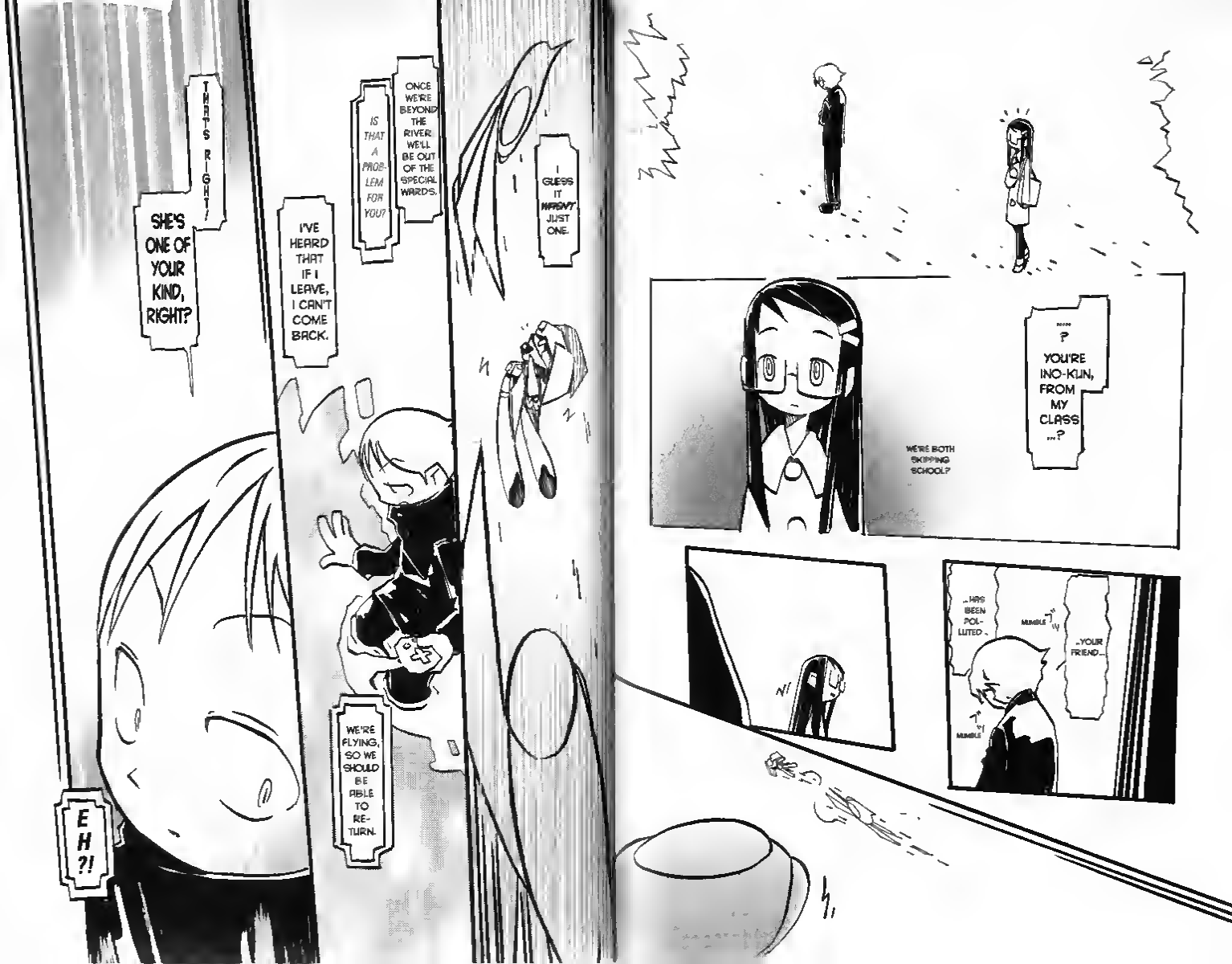
I DON'T WANT TO DO IT, BUT WE HAVE TO CALL THE LOCAL AIR FORCE
EVEN IF IT MEANS GETTING KILLED BY THE MAJOR
...AGAIN
IT'S HER.


KACHAK KACHAK
AHH/ THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO/
CAN I SCARE IT AWAY?

VWOOM

KACHAK KACHAK
AWW/ LOOK AT THE MESS/

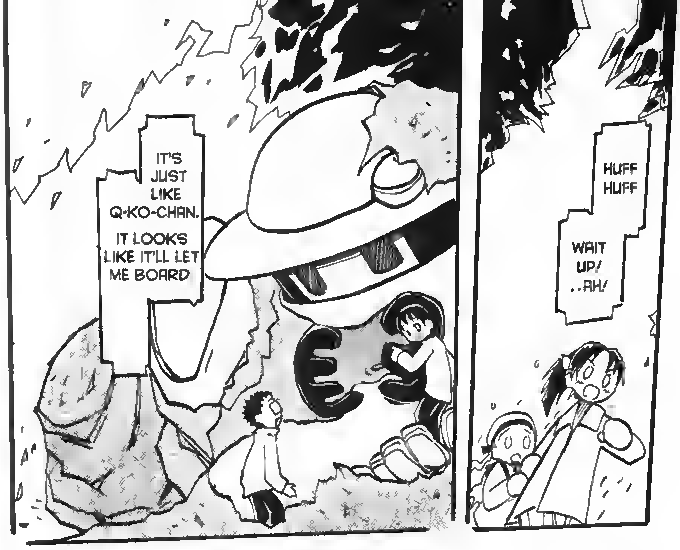

SHE'S THE CUTEST THING!
SHH
SHH


EH?!
WE'RE FLYING, SO WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RE-TURN.
I'VE HEARD THAT IF I LEAVE, I CAN'T COME BACK.
SHE'S ONE OF YOUR KIND, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT!
IS THAT A PROBLEM FOR YOU?
ONCE WE'RE BEYOND THE RIVER, WE'LL BE OUT OF THE SPECIAL WARDS.
I GUESS IT WASN'T JUST ONE.
WE'RE BOTH SKIPPING SCHOOL?
YOU'RE INO-KUN, FROM MY CLASS...?
..HE'S BEEN POL-LUTED..
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
..YOUR FRIEND..

IT'S ONE OF THE BLACK SERIES! IF SOMEBODY IS ON BOARD, THIS COULD BE A PROBLEM!
!?
I'M FLYING! WEE!
UWAA!
I DON'T GET IT. ARE THEY STRONG?
THOSE TYPES TAKE ON A DIFFERENT KIND OF TRANSFOR MATION!
IT'S A TRAP!

IN THE CONFUSION GENERATED WHEN THE COUNTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE CRUMBLED A FASCIST PARTY BEARING THE MARK OF THE CUTE BUNNY QUIETLY TOOK POWER AND WITH ONE PARTY RULE, BEGAN TO RUN THE COUNTRY AS THEY SAW FIT. THEY DISPATCHED A LARGE ARMY TO THE CONTINENT WITH FORCED RECRUITMENT OF ANYONE IN JOBS THAT WERE LESS THAN VITAL TO THE COUNTRY. THOSE NEW SOLDIERS NEVER RETURNED. WITHOUT REGARD FOR LOCAL OPINIONS AND CONDITIONS, THE REGIME CONDUCTED WHAT THEY CALLED THE GLORIOUS PURGE. CORRUPT ADMINISTRATORS OOXX MAINTAINED RULE. ALL OTHERS WERE SHOWN TO THE GUILLOTINE. IN A SHORT CIVIL WAR, THE POPULATION WAS GREATLY DECREASED. NOW, THE AIR IN THE HEART OF THE CITY IS FRESH, AND THE LUCKY CHILDREN OF THE SPECIAL WARDS GROW UP QUICKLY.

#9

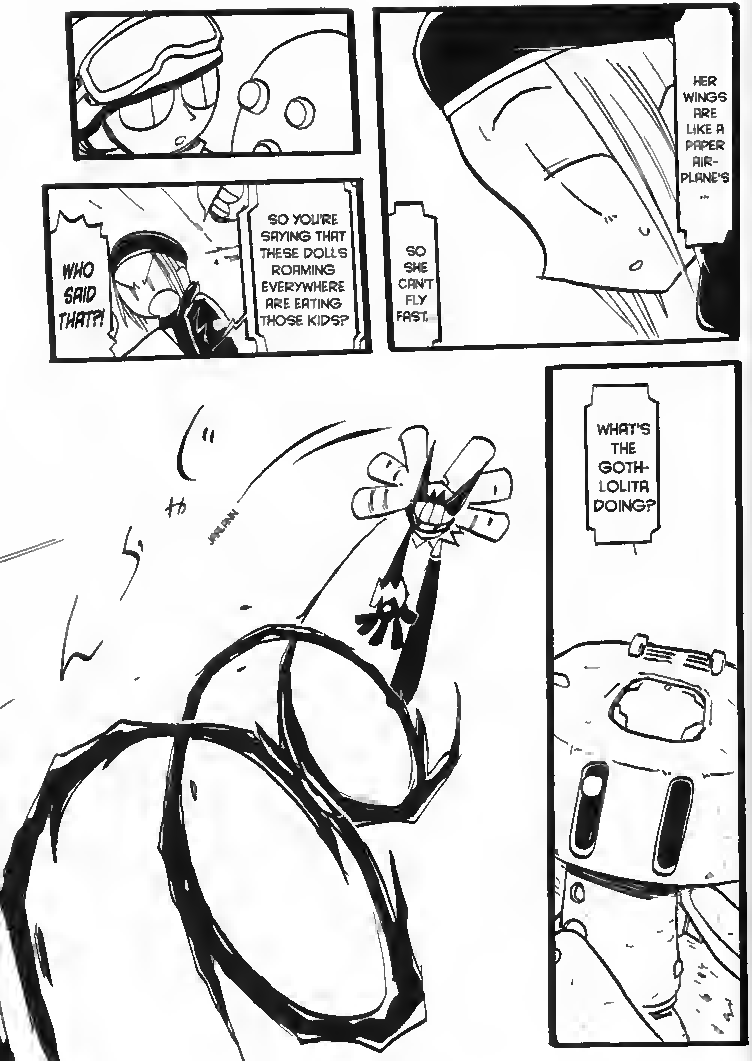


UMPH!
UN
I SAID, PLEASE DON'T USE BUCKET-MAN MECHS WITHOUT LEAVE FROM THE REGION THAT OWNS IT!
AN EXCELLENT MAN IS PILOTING IT, SO DON'T WORRY! IT ISN'T LIKE YOU BROUGHT IT HERE YOURSELF, SO JUST LEAVE THIS TO US!
HM?
AT LEAST IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE I WAS STEALING IT.
IT'S NOT WITH-OUT LEAVE!
FLWAR
UM...
PHIL
PHIL
FOR GOODNESS SAKE!
VLULU
WAIT FOR ME!
HEEEY!
THANK YOU~

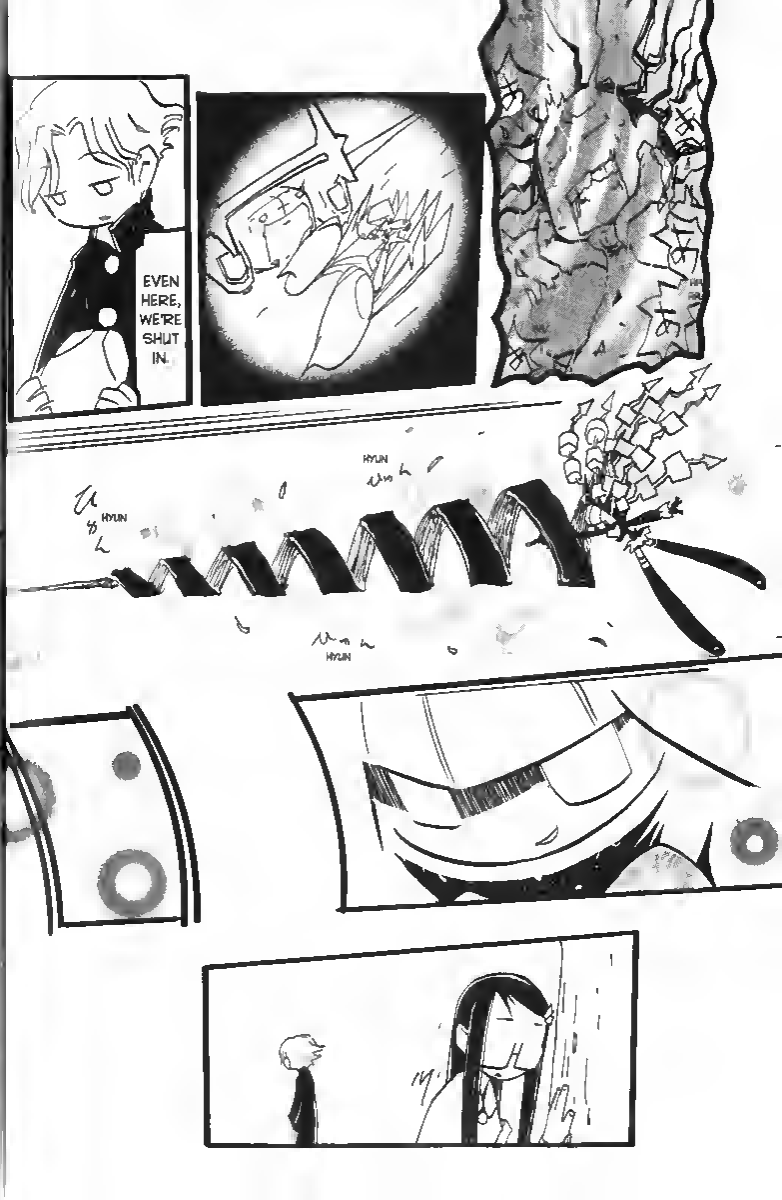
NEV-ER! NO WAY!
NO!!
LET'S BOARD TO-GETH-ER!
COME HERE!
OKAY, THEN WAIT FOR ME OVER THERE!
HYUUUUUU

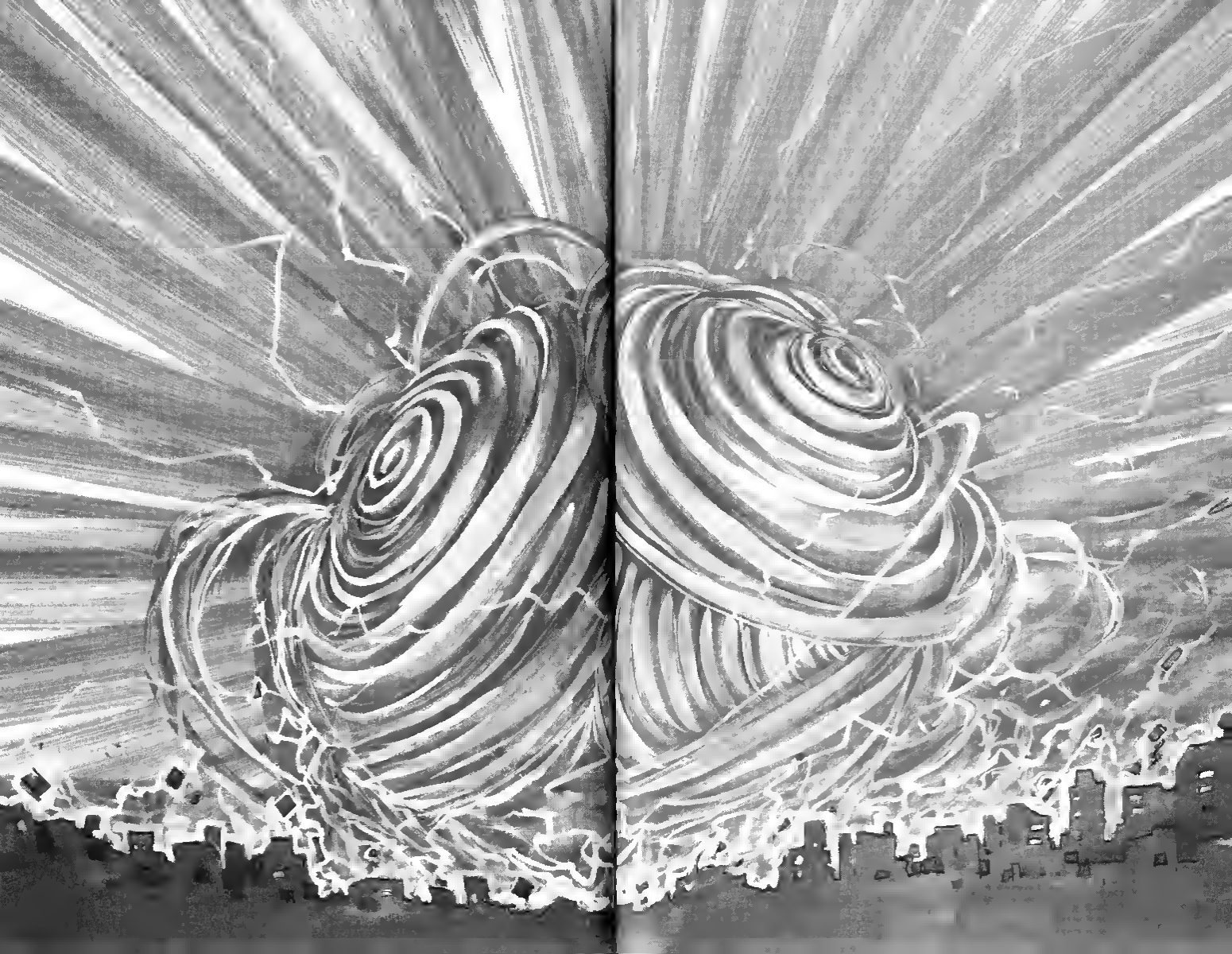
LET'S PLAY THE WAY A COUPLE OF GIRLS WOULD!
LET ME BOARD YOU!
SHINOCHAN
SHIVER
THANKS SO MUCH!
SHUM

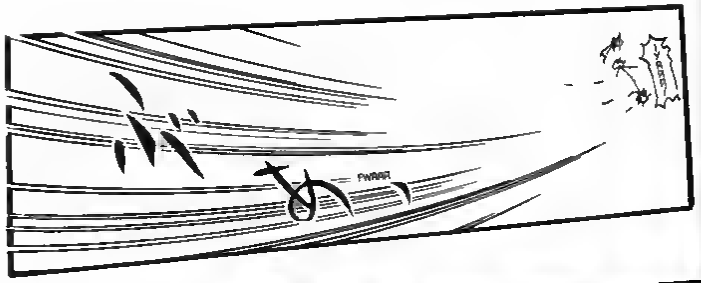
I'M SURE, NOBODY GAVE PERMISSION/
WE HAVE LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR/ WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT/
MY MARUBÔ-SHIKO-CHAN AND TYROLKO-CHAN AND NATIVE-AMERICANKO-CHAN/ THEY'RE ALL FLYING AS PREDICTED!!
YOU WENT AND GAVE THEM NAMES, HUH?
BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT?
HANEKOCHAN?

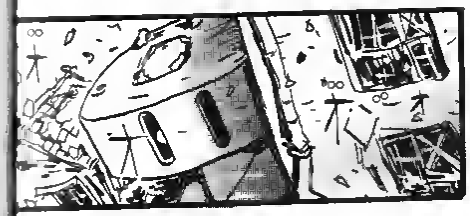

HER WINGS ARE LIKE A PAPER AIR-PLANE'S ...
SO SHE CAN'T FLY FAST.
WHO SAID THAT?!
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THESE DOLL'S ROAMING EVERYWHERE ARE EATING THOSE KIDS?
WHAT'S THE GOTH-LOLITA DOING?

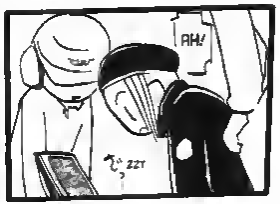
HOW...
BEING TREATED AS BAIT
FUSSY
SWIPATCH
HUH
SHUH!!

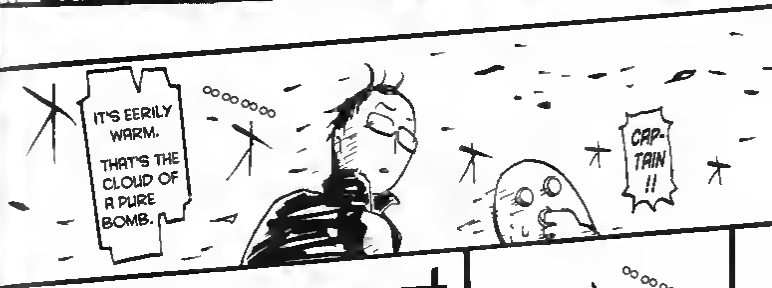

EVEN HERE, WE'RE SHUT IN.
RYUN
RYUN
RYUN



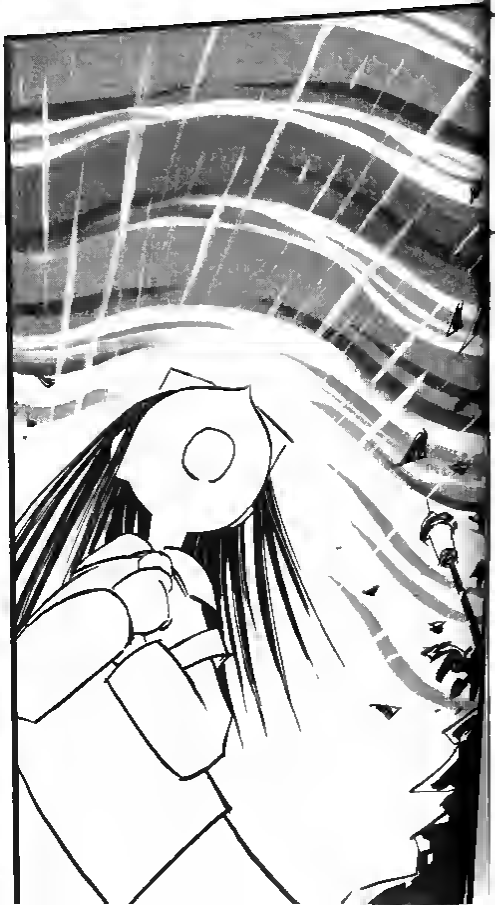

PWAAR

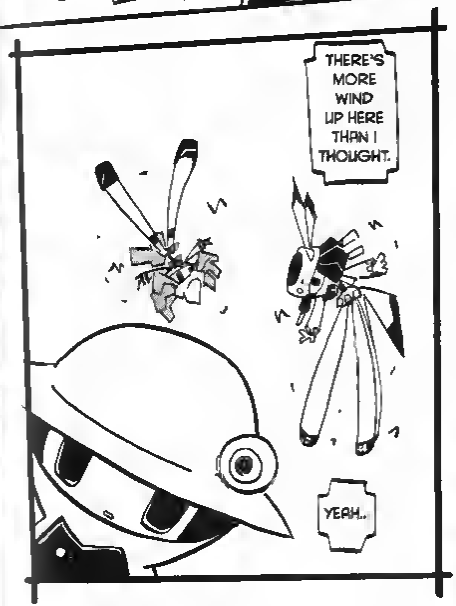



AH!
ZZT


IT'S EERILY WARM.
THAT'S THE CLOUD OF A PURE BOMB.
CAP-TAIN !!

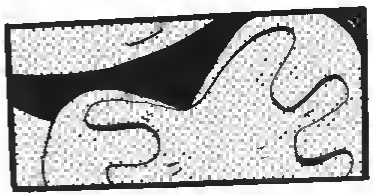
?
?

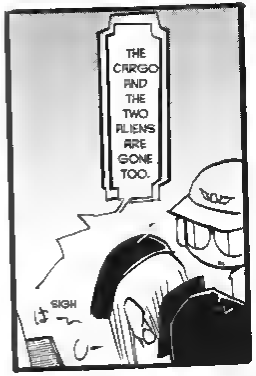



THERE'S MORE WIND UP HERE THAN I THOUGHT.
YEAH..

THIS ISN'T TOO BIG AN EX PLO-SION.
SINCE WE'RE NOT IN THE CLOUD WE SHOULD BE OKAY
IN-SIDE, IT'S IN-STANT DEATH.

TWO TYPES OF ALIENS ARE FIGHTING EACH OTHER ON EARTH. WE WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM BOTH, BUT WE JUST CAN'T... WHY NOT...?
IT ISN'T REALLY A "WHAT" IT'S THE ALIENS
HEY, MR SOLDIER... WHAT COUNTRY IS ATTACKING US ANYWAY?
NOBODY!
THEY HAVE DIVINE MAIDEN'S ROBES ENGINES TOO SO THE PURE BOMBS WERE THE CIRCLE-C DOLLS ALL ALONG?
THAT'S WHAT I HEAR THERE WAS A LEAK FROM THE DOLLS A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
THANK GOD IT HIT IN RHINDONED PART!
IT WAS A DIAMETER OF 500M!
ZZT
AH!
THAT'S AMAZING!
PEOPLE CAN TALK TO THEM?

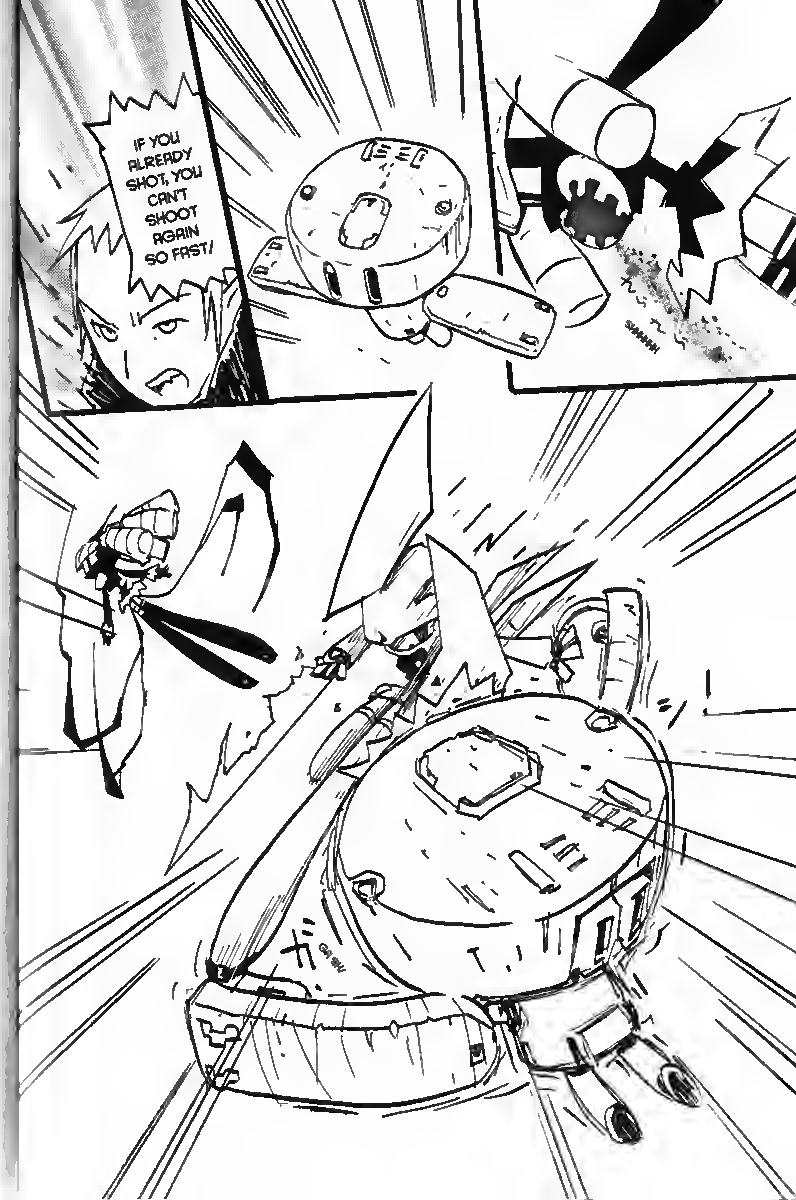


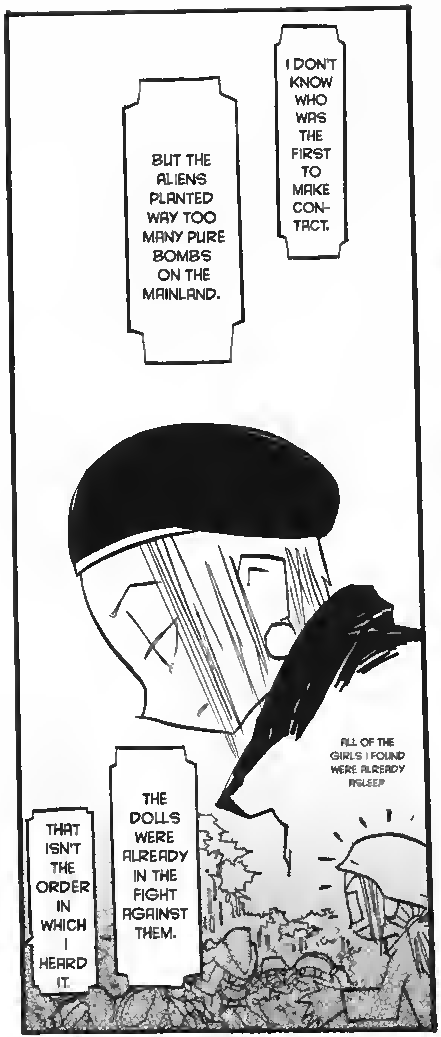

THE CARGO AND THE TWO ALIENS ARE GONE TOO.
SIGH

IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S OKAY ONE BLOCK OF THE DESERTED SECTION OF TOWN HAS VANISHED BUT
WHAT ABOUT THE SPECIAL WARD?!

I NEVER THOUGHT A GIRL COULD FIRE THAT WITH JUST A SINGLE RIDER
I DON'T THINK THOSE DOLLS ARE FUNNY ANYMORE
EH?!

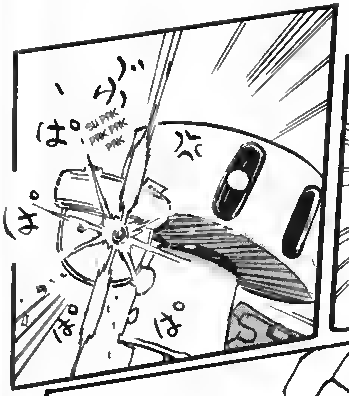
GYARRRG!!
THAT VOICE! WHO IS THAT?
YOU MUSTN'T ATTACK!
NO!
THE STRESS OF KILLING ONE OF YOUR OWN IS ENORMOUS I CAN'T RECOMMEND IT
GO AHEAD!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE A MURDERER ANYWAY.
!!
OH, YEAH!

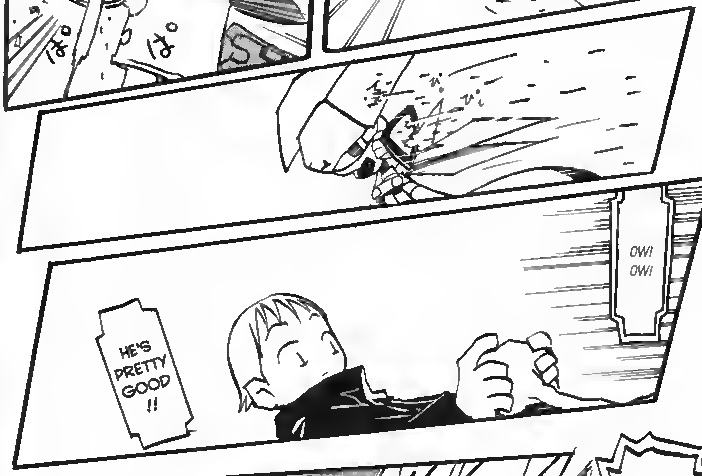

IF YOU ALREADY SHOT, YOU CAN'T SHOOT AGAIN SO FAST!
SHAAAH
!


I DON'T KNOW WHO WAS THE FIRST TO MAKE CONTACT.
BUT THE ALIENS PLANTED WAY TOO MANY PURE BOMBS ON THE MAINLAND.
ALL OF THE GIRLS I FOUND WERE ALREADY ASLEEP
THE DOLLS WERE ALREADY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THEM.
THAT ISN'T THE ORDER IN WHICH I HEARD IT.

NO!!
IT'S TOO LATE PULL BACK.
DAMN!! I WANNA SHOOT IT DOWN! I CAN KILL IT RIGHT?
SINCE THIS HAPPENED, HEADQUARTER'S WILL SURELY GIVE YOU PERMISSION NEXT TIME! YOU CAN SHOOT DOWN ALL OF THEM AT ONCE DOES THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY?
YES, IT DOES!!
URRZ...

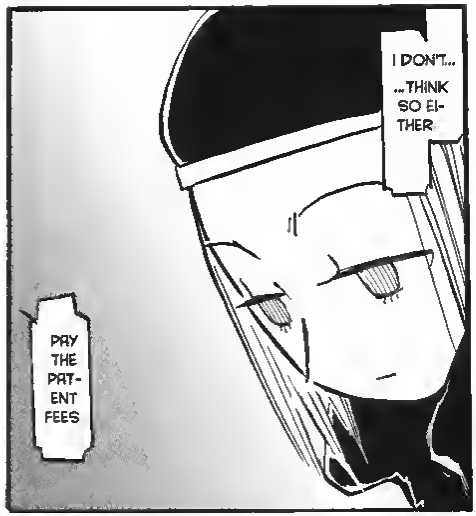
SORRY, BUT I CAN'T TREAT YOU, OR STOP IT FROM HAPPENING DO YOUR BEST TO DIE.

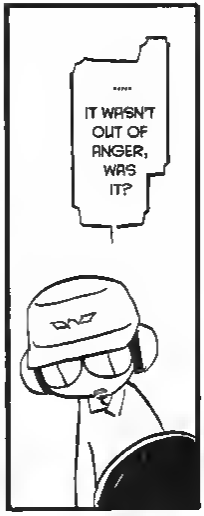

SU PINK PINK PINK
SMASH

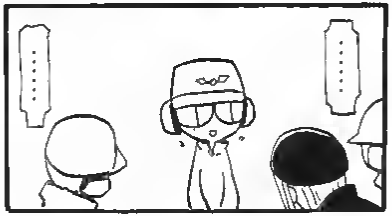

OW! OW!
HE'S PRETTY GOOD !!

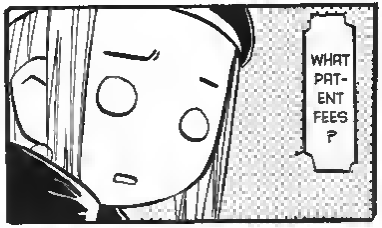
THE GOTH-LOLITA GOT AWAY!!
DAMN IT!
THAT'S WHAT I WAS AIMING FOR!
AKA! IF YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO KILL A DOLL, THEN GO FOR THE HEART ON ITS CHEST

SHE JUST LEFT ME!
EHHNN...
MEI-CHAN LEFT ME ALL A-LONE!
EHNN SNIFF


I DON'T...
...THINK SO EI-THER
PAY THE PAT-ENT FEES


.....
IT WASN'T OUT OF ANGER, WAS IT?




WHAT PAT-ENT FEES ?

About the Author

Ueda Hajime

1. Your favorite thing — *Escape*

2. Your least favorite thing — *The opposite of escape*

3. Your birthdate or star-sign — *Taurus*

4. What is your hobby? — *Escape*

5. People you respect — *Those who do the opposite of escape*

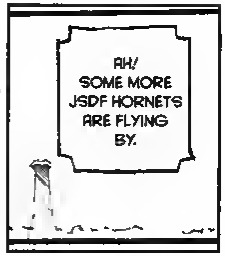
6. Animals you like — *Animals other than monkeys*

7. Favorite anime or movie — *JFK*

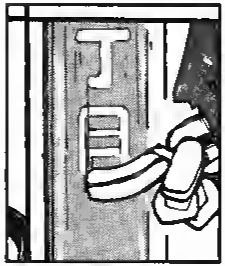
Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

JSDF, page 9



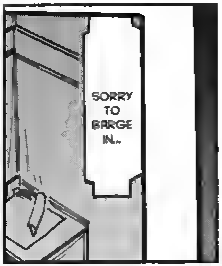
The Japanese Self Defense Force is Japan's standing army. Since Article 9 of the Japanese constitution, which was drafted directly following WWII, states that Japan renounces war or the threat of force to solve international disputes, Japan is legally only allowed to defend itself. The JSDF has no long range missiles meant to hit the land, marines or amphibious units, air refueling, large caches of munitions, or even rules of engagement. Still, old foes and future potential enemies surround Japan, and as of this writing, the government is looking into changing certain parts of Article 9. Although Japan only has a force for self-defense, the JSDF is no pushover army. Even before the latest terrorist-related troubles, Japan was the sixth-largest military spender in the world.



Addresses, page 19

Japanese addresses are based on blocks rather than streets. All blocks in a town are given numbers, then each building on a block is numbered as well—the building numbers seem random but are actually numbered according to which building was constructed first on the block. The best way to find a building is to have a map drawn for you by the resident of the building, but other methods include asking the local policeman or mail carrier.

Recently, the internet has helped matters with electronically generated maps that not only include the location but also certain landmarks in the area. The sign that O-ko-chan looks at is the bottom of a sign letting her know that she is on the right block to find the house she is looking for.

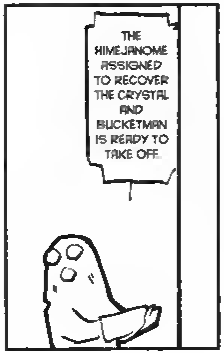


Sorry to Barge In, page 49

This is a translation of a standard phrase in Japanese, *Ojama-shimasu*. It is nearly always said when entering a private space that is not one's own. (Usually it applies to another person's home, but it may also be said when entering someone's bedroom, office, or other space that is not open to the public.)

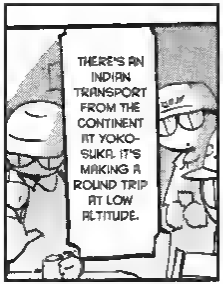
"O Vreneli," page 72

This is an old Swiss folk song that became well-known in Japan after it was included in Yamaha's Clavinova song list, and after it became a popular ringtone for mobile phones. Some say that Vreneli is the name of a girl, but vreneli is also a kind of Swiss coin.



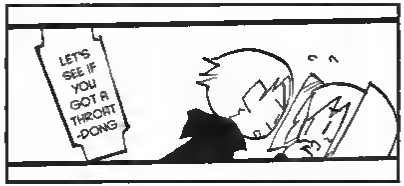
Himejanome, page 94

The Himeuranamijanome is a type of butterfly that is common in Japan, but has no English name. It's official category is *Mycalesis gotama*. Hime stands for princess, and is common in Japanese plant and animal names. Uranami indicates that it has markings on the underside of its wings, and janome indicates that the marks look like eyes. Actually they look like perfectly round fish-eyes.



Yokosuka, page 124

Situated in a town just south of Yokohama, Yokosuka is one of the main United States naval bases in Japan, and a symbol of the American military and America itself to most Japanese



Throat-dong, page 160

The *nodochinko* can be found in *Kenkyusha's New Japanese-English Dictionary*, but all it does is reference *kenyôsui*, which is the more technical term for the uvula However, the word *nodochinko* certainly does have perverted connotations.

-ko-chan, page 178

Maru-bôshi means round hat Tyrol (*Chiroru*, in Japanese transliteration, is a place name in both Northern Italy and in western Australia Most likely (from the dress) the name refers to the Northern Italy location) Native-Americanko-chan is the English words put into *katakana* And the *hane* of *Haneko-chan* means wings Basically all of these are descriptive phrases of the robots followed by -ko-chan to indicate that they look like young girls

Tomunchap, page 114

This is a direct transliteration of the *katagana* (syllabary used for foreign words) word used in the book My guess is that the Tomun part refers to the Tomun river which, according to sources several hundred years old, was the official border between China and Korea Therefore it may be safe to assume that the soldiers are probably Chinese and that they are fighting Japan

See You Later, page 120

Ittekimasu is another standard Japanese phrase (see Sorry to Barge In) which is said whenever one leaves a place where one belongs (usually one's home, but it can also be said at one's place of business, school, or other highly frequented place) It means literally, I'm going and will be back It is nearly always followed by someone being left behind saying the standard phrase, *Itterashai* (go and come back)

Otayama, page 121

This is a strange name in the Japanese version It uses *katagana* (the syllabary for foreign words) for *Ota* and the *kanji* that means mountain for *yama* It could also be pronounced Otasan Recently, the word *otaku* has been shortened to *ota*, and *yama* could indicate that the character is overweight, so this seems like it could be a derogatory nickname for the character